

the  
brisli  
spr  
bristl  
ere

# bristle

and fig.) showing anger or desire to re-  
sist:—*pr.p.* brist'ling; *pa.p.* brist'led—*adj.*

No. 19

Spring 2005

£1.20

FIGHTING TALK ROM BRISTOL AND THE SOUTH WEST



special



The G8 R eight - we're everywhere!



**bristle** is an alternative publication for Bristol and the South West aiming to provide a space and information for local groups and activists. Think locally, act globally, and vice versa. **bristle** invites everyone campaigning locally for different issues to send us your stuff. Contact us if you want to take part. **bristle** is self-funded, and any money made is invested in the magazine and other free-information activities. **bristle** is independent - we don't belong to any party, current or group. People writing for **bristle** don't necessarily agree with all the articles or content of the magazine. **bristle** is committed to creating an alternative media to the local and national brainwashers and manipulators. **bristle** is committed to the distribution of information and to creating revolution and an alternative to capitalism.

# bristle

Box 25

82 Colston St  
Bristol BS1 5BB

editors@bristle.org.uk  
www.bristle.org.uk



Printed on recycled paper by Footprint (Leeds)  
footprint@footprinters.co.uk  
www.footprinters.co.uk



Footprint is a workers co-op committed to providing printing services to the highest possible ethical and environmental standards.



## Copyleft:

**bristle** is **copyleft** - all the content (text/ graphics) is free for reproduction as long as this is not done with profitable aims and acknowledging **bristle** magazine

**bristle** is produced without any exterior funding and without advertising. this is due to our anti-capitalist principles and to our commitment to remain independent. No one taking part in the production of this magazine gets paid either. What you pay as magazine cost its our only income and used exclusively to pay for the paper and printing. Please, support this project. Respect.

# help distribute bristle



Get some copies  
to sell to your  
mates and  
get your copy  
free!

## bristle is available from:

**Bristol:** Barratt Newsagents (Fishponds), Better Food Company, Sevier St, St (Werburghs), Big Saver Off Licence (St Marks Rd, Easton), Bond News (Oxford St, Totterdown), BRB International Store (Stapleton Rd, Easton), Bristol News (Jamaica St), Chelsea Inn (Chelsea Rd, Easton), Circle Books (North St, Bedminster), Cube Cinema (Dove St), Customer's Choice (Fishponds Rd, Eastville), Dysfunctional (Bedminster), Eat the Beat (St. Nicholas St), Galliford Stores (Picton St, Montpellier), Genesis (Stapleton Rd, Easton), Greenbank Post Office, Greenleaf Bookshop (Colston St), Harvest Natural Foods (Gloucester Rd), Here (Stokes Croft), Jangers (Mina Rd, St Werburghs), A. Jones (Fishponds Rd), Kebele (Robertson Rd, Easton), Key Store (Queens Road, Clifton), La Ruca (Gloucester Rd), Lifestyle (Stokes Croft), Lunched Out (Stokes Croft), Northern Lights Gallery (Bedminster), One Planet (Picton St, Montpellier), The Plough (Easton), Replay Records (East St, Bedminster), Sonnis Food and Wines (Mina Rd, St Werburghs), Stokes Croft Post Office, Tangy (Stapleton Rd, Easton), Wardatu Sahara (Easton), Windmill News (Church Rd, Redfield).

**Bath:** Green Park Books (Green Park Station Market), Happy Daze (Walcot St), Harvest Natural Foods (Walcot St), Pierrepont Newsagent (Manvers St).

**Frome:** Frome Wholefoods (Cheap St), Garden Café (Catherine Hill)

**Totnes:** Harlequin Books (High St).

**Rest of the world:** www.actedistribution.org

# subscribe!

Yes! Now's your chance to secure your subscription to **bristle**! Or why not get one for a friend? What better gift for any occasion? Alright, there are obviously lots of better gifts, but we really need the money, so just get your cheque book out, OK?

Please subscribe me to issues 20-23:

£4.50 (individuals)

£10 (solidarity subscription)

Name.....

Address.....

*n.b. these details will not be used for any other purposes!*

BACK COPIES: 5-14: 50p each, 15: £1, 16: £1.50

Please tick boxes of issues you want:

|                            |                             |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 |

## Back Issues (specials):

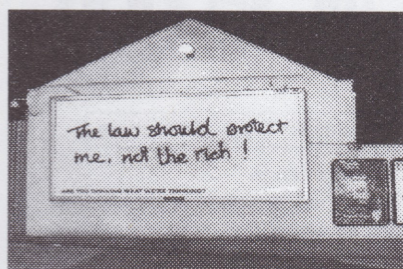
- 18 Preparing for a police state
- 17 Media
- 16 Direct action
- 15 Housing
- 14 Resisting the war
- 13 Drugs
- 12 Mental health
- 11 Capitalism
- 10 Community
- 9 Work
- 8 Education
- 7 [none left]
- 6 Asylum 5 May Day
- 1-4 [none left]

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to **bristle** and send it to us with this form to the address above.



**BRISTOL ACTIVISTS HAVE** started the countdown in this year's main campaign: DissentG8! As well as the participation of Bristolians in the protests against the G8 in Scotland, there are many other things happening in Bristol and the South West: publicity for the campaign, benefits art and even a conference. Everything is ready and scheduled for the countdown. However this is not the only campaign. Local campaigns like Packers Green have put into practice methods of direct action too.

Meanwhile, it seems like the end of the financial year is causing some to take very stupid decisions and cut expenses in order to balance accounts. Bristol City Council caused embarrassment for itself by withdrawing funds for disabled people and the elderly. These also used direct action and protest to highlight the situation. Thanks to this they managed to get the message across



and shock Bristolians by showing the Council's outrageous behaviour. In other workplaces managers decided the best way to start the year was to get rid of workers' point scale and to cut their wages. Tough, because that just means

workers getting together for some action, something that we're always keen to report in **bristle**. Others, like the manager of the Bristol based charity Unity, decided to take the money and leg it leaving 80 workers in the street. Tough, because the money of 80 people is loads of money but if those 80 catch you, you run a serious risk. And everyone witnessed outraged the closure of the emblematic Easton Community Centre. Reports on both are included in this

issue. And there were more industrial disputes and whistle blowing. Well done! Don't let them get away with their abuse!

Despite these serious problems within the system, some pretend everything is fine. Sorry, I did not realise we are again in election time and it's time to ignore fuck ups. More artificial smiles. The Tories claim it is not racist to deport people. More people? We know about this: this government deported Amanj, deported Elvis and thousands more around the country. In December they deported a Somali family in Bristol and they have denied asylum and moved our mates from Bristol.



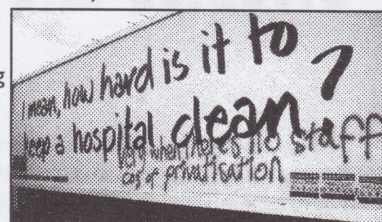
And Tories still want to deport more people! They'll be playing again the same card! Racist scum!

Will we have more new laws? More promises and wicked decisions? Like banning hunting? What for? So they still hunt? And if we try to make sure this law is respected, do I get a warrant? Not, we get arrested. Sorry, but we think the situation is even sicker than it was before. At least there are still many up for challenging this.

And yes, just before the elections we have a new law: a terrorist law. Another one? Yes, why

not? There are quite popular all over the world! We told you in the previous issue that Blunket's resignation meant nothing because someone else would be in post with more of the same – confirmed: Charles Clarke is his name and the Terror Bill is his own contribution to the crap.

Anyway, as fuming as before, as active as before: more fighting talk from Bristol and the South West. **Read it and react!**



The editorial collective

## Corporate raiders – The Guardian caught out

**ON THE 21 FEBRUARY** The Guardian newspaper launched a two-week sales drive in the South West with a glossy insert about Bristol, highlighting the sorts of expensive places its readers like to go.

Over the two weeks the Guardian carried a series of articles on Bristol and the region. Its journalists had been in the area for a week or so before, snooping around. They found some news in Bristol's alternative press, including the story about AVAG, that they dedicated half their back page to on 21 February. How do we know? Easy... Guardian journo visited Greenleaf Books, bought copy of **Bristle 18**. Saw AVAG article, went to St Werburghs, found person who had criticised AVAG (and was interviewed by **Bristle**). Got loads of background info (as seen by **Bristle**). Wrote article leaving out extensive detailed criticisms of AVAG, but gave typically balanced, liberal analysis, appealing to all sides (sorry - all potential readers). Gave link to AVAG website. Made no mention/gave no credit to person concerned, nor **Bristle**.

**Bristle** produces information, aiming to provoke action. We don't copyright & readers are welcome to reuse info. But corporate entities like the Guardian can fuck off.

A special thanks are due to Kelly at Royce Rolls for her services to crime prevention. When a tea-leaf snatched the honesty box containing **Bristle**'s takings - Kelly gave chase, pursued him through the market and wrestled the jar back off him!

## (mal)CONTENTS

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Disabled and elderly people fight for services ..... | 2     |
| Finally: the closure of the ECC .....                | 3     |
| Refugee relocation .....                             | 4     |
| Somali family deported .....                         | 4     |
| The campaign for Lina Luis & Miguel continues .....  | 5     |
| Unity's manager runs with money .....                | 6     |
| Blocka Cola .....                                    | 7     |
| The fight to save Packers Field.....                 | 8     |
| <b>Special G8: Intro.....</b>                        | 9     |
| Another scorcher... Oh shit!.....                    | 10    |
| Gleneagle's Summit events .....                      | 10    |
| Mummy, what did you let them use al ....             | 12    |
| Another corporate con: PFI .....                     | 12    |
| Africa's misery, capital's gain.....                 | 14    |
| CIRCA (interview).....                               | 16    |
| Bristol Sabs update (Jan-Feb 2005) .....             | 18    |
| Demo against Head of State terrorism .....           | 19    |
| Bristol Activist .....                               | 19    |
| Bristling in Bath .....                              | 20    |
| Bristling in SW .....                                | 21    |
| Vote for... what exactly? .....                      | 22    |
| <b>Reviews .....</b>                                 | 23-24 |
| <b>Contacts .....</b>                                | 25    |



For some they are possibly unlikely activists but they're fast becoming Bristol's most effective activists. The Campaign to Save Bristol Day Centres, a coalition of elderly and disabled people - many with serious long-term illnesses - has been seizing headlines over the last few months with a series of increasingly daring and audacious actions across Bristol aimed, at saving their day care places from brutal cuts.



## Disabled and elderly people fight for services

By Campaign To Save Day Centres

It began early last autumn when Bristol's Labour-led administration were forced to admit that their social services department was heading for an overspend in the region of £10m - £12m. Labour's social services boss Robin Moss immediately announced the need for cuts or 'modernisation' as he insisted on calling it.



reduced to around 15% of previous levels.

This was a disaster for users. Many seriously ill people with conditions such as spina bifida, advanced Parkinson's and blindness were effectively thrown on to the streets. Which, after Christmas, is exactly where they began to take their protest.

Throughout January and February Bristol City Centre saw a series of protests organised and led by Bristol's day care users. Many in wheelchairs or using zimmer frames, they attracted huge popular support and Bristol City Council started to melt down.

Just days after the first protest, the Head Officer at social services disappeared on long-term sick leave. He was followed by his deputy with responsibility for the elderly and disabled within a week. Meanwhile consultants called in to assess the finances at Bristol social services began to unravel a stark picture of management incompetence and ineptitude on a grand scale. Bristol City Council's budget process came under the microscope and was found wanting.

The protestors, seeing an opportunity, then targeted the city council's budget setting meeting for 2005 - 2006. In scenes of high farce, campaigners chained themselves to the council chamber, interrupted speakers and insisted on delivering a 'banned' speech that compared Bristol Labour party to Nazis. Ill-informed councillors could only watch in horror as their financial profligacy was held-up for all to see.

Subsequently the increasingly confident protestors have started on a new campaign of high-profile direct actions. An all-night sit-in at their Lockleaze Day Centre on March 19 marked the beginning of this new approach and, with an election coming, protestors are promising more and better actions.

'We are not going away,' say protestors, 'We are not giving up. We will not be ignored. We will get our services restored. They've been cut because of mismanagement and money wasting by Bristol City and we are forced to pay the price. It's not good enough. We demand justice.'

Organising and running protests with disabled and elderly people is an expensive business requiring high levels of organisation. Save Bristol Day Care urgently need funds. Please give generously to this worthwhile cause supporting Bristol's most vulnerable people.

To achieve the cuts Moss needed a wholesale reassessment of people's needs under the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and a controversial 'Fair Access to Care Review' for all Bristol's day care users was launched.

Horror stories around this process are rife. One 'trained assessor' under the terms of the Act was from the planning department, elderly and frail people were assessed at short notice without advice or representation, many were not informed that the process was taking place, those who lodged appeals were refused representation or the city council insisted on providing its own advocates who were also their own employees.

The results were predictable. By December two of Bristol's day care centres had been shut and another two - Lockleaze Day Centre and the Bristol 600 Club - had had their provision



On 7th March the ECC announced it was going into liquidation as had been decided by the ECC

Management Committee, after discussions with Bristol City Council (BCC) the previous Thursday. This case has showed further disrespect by the BCC towards the Easton community and its workers and a further level of mismanagement, where the main people affected have again been the community of Easton.



# Finally: the closure of the Easton Community centre

By Chalks

The reason given by the Management Committee was the financial situation of the centre, as a big bulk of funding for the outside football pitch had gone to pay other debts, allegedly legally prohibiting BCC from offering a financial rescue package. This showed the terrible financial state of the Centre. However no information or accounts on this has yet been provided, not even to the Centre staff. In the meantime all we have is pure speculation: that the debt was £30,000, or £50,000 or even £100,000. Who gives more? The fact that the audited accounts have not been finished for two years has been helpful to hide this fact.

The explanation about where all that money makes us think quite a lot: was there not money disappearing before in debt payments? Why was all the ECC's money gone all of a sudden?

Regarding the Council, there are also some questions. The council is the leaseholder and also one of the funders – funding for core staff: finance officer, receptionist and cleaner. The council helped the Community Association to carry on during the previous crises of 2003 (however, don't think too highly of the BCC: funding by BCC as well as by other institutions of the ECC and culture and services in Easton is minimal, especially if we take into consideration that Easton is one of Bristol's priority areas – the 5th worse crime area in the UK, remember?). BCC claims it is legally prohibited from making any more payments. However, it's a coincidence that this has happened right at the time when the BCC is closing other centres and services.

It is also a coincidence that two years ago the Easton Community Centre entered a crisis due to an investigation of mismanagement against its former director Rupert Daniels. In September 2003 all the funds of the association were going on paying other debts. From then onwards funding was very difficult and the account was frozen. BCC accounting experts helped the management committee with accounts and setting financial systems. However, it seems all went the same again: the same experts were back in the centre on 7th March. We can quote one of them saying 'What a mess, what a mess!' Really? Since the 2003 crises, restricted funding had to be placed in different accounts and all the projects seem to be self-funded. Therefore there are some possibilities: either the debts from 2003 were still not paid or the Centre has not got enough money for what it was expected to deliver. In any case, the facts that the council has not monitored this centre's finances after such an incident, and that the Centre lacked finance officers for

so long (more than a year!), plus knowing that there were no accounts produced since (two years), are alarming and demonstrate the BCC's negligence and its responsibility in the ECC's collapse.

Another coincidence: the new director appointed just last December (coming into post in January) is a former council worker, Derek Pickup. More coincidence? All those short-listed for the post belonged to the same circle. Another coincidence: he took over a post knowing the mess the centre was in, with decent wages (paid for by the Government Office for the South West), but he had already made his mind to run as a candidate in the next local election in Henbury. In fact, he was not upset about losing his job because he banked on being elected. Was he just placed by BCC there to proceed with the closure?

ECC staff had heard rumours of possible bankruptcy, etc...and hearsay from BCC indicates that Pickup was fully aware of the financial crisis in January. However, the new shady director had refused to make any official comments, only to come out with it... one day before the closure was due! Mmmmmhhhh! Rumour also has it that one staff member, who is linked to the BCC and ECC Management Committee cliques, was given notice of intended redundancy three weeks earlier.



The way the Centre was closed is remarkable too as there was no negotiation or a search for other possibilities.

To all this we have to add the terrible situation of the management committee. Some showed not enough commitment. Most of those who joined after the crises did not want to know anything about the past. Despite their good intentions, the past – as proved – was still there and MC members started to leave. At the moment of the closure only three people were on board.

What to say about the staff? Working under such situations is not easy and funding for projects was almost impossible. There was loads of commitment but also loads of friction among staff, increasing after previous director Vernon Samuel left. His move, as others' after this, showed a great level of careerism among some ECC staff, which badly affected any existing staff solidarity. This, together with the speed of the decision, meant that there was no immediate reaction against closure.

(continues in page 7)



# Dispersal applied against Bristol asylum seekers

Asylum seekers in Bristol have been forced to leave the city because the company contracted by the Home Office's NASS (National Asylum Support Service) has decided to close some of its houses. Once again, capitalism: Companies' and government's interest ruling over people's needs, over the needs of the most in need.

By Martin Mantxo

The company contracted by NASS in this case is Adelphis Hotel. It's interesting to observe that the Home Office, like other institutions, delegates other companies to provide services. That is privatization for you. However it's shocking that such an institution conditions its service to the demands of those companies (multinationals). In this case, we can observe that though the Home Office can not offer some of the accommodation in Bristol, no solution in our city (with other companies, hostels, state agencies or rented accommodation) has been provided. Nor have asylum seekers been provided with a system similar to Housing Office, allowing them – if wanted- to rent their own accommodation.

However, as Bristol has learnt, NASS itself decided last October to terminate contracts with other housing providers (Accommodata Limited and Roselodge Limited) as they believed there was a 'decrease in asylum intake leading to a surplus of accommodation'. This decision affected those asylum seekers hosted by these companies as dispersal was applied to them. In 2002, the Citizens Advice Bureaux declared that NASS had 'established - and has retained - an unenviable reputation for administrative inefficiency and bureaucratic inaccessibility'.

NASS' abuse goes even further as they threaten those who disagree with the imposition to cut their asylum support: accommodation and living expenses. There is also space in their letters for a reminder explaining that asylum seekers have no

'squatters' rights' (apparently housing for asylum seekers is ruled by the Asylum Act (1999) instead of Housing Acts (1985/1996)). Even the Housing Office acknowledges that asylum seekers forced to disperse may prefer (despite their harsh previous experiences) to choose squatting!

The letter is followed by a visit to the accommodation where residents are told of their next destination. In a residence, a Rwandan refugee decided to run away before facing this inquisition. That is how the Home Office treats those who escape genocide! Another Ugandan refugee decided the same. Three others were relocated to Plymouth. Meanwhile an Iranian asylum seeker refused the dispersal on the grounds of his studies. The Home Office had still not decided what to do with him 15 days after. Is this how the Home Office helps asylum seekers to achieve stability?

Dispersal and cancelling contracts with accommodation providers are just the beginning of a move towards closing borders. The government is moving towards putting all asylum seekers in reception/detention centres. Negotiations are already in place to remove asylum seekers to other countries - for instance Somalis to other African countries, who will have (for them) lucrative contracts but will be cheaper than supporting people here.

And NASS even dare to finish its lovely letters with a motto such as 'Building a safe, just and tolerant society'.

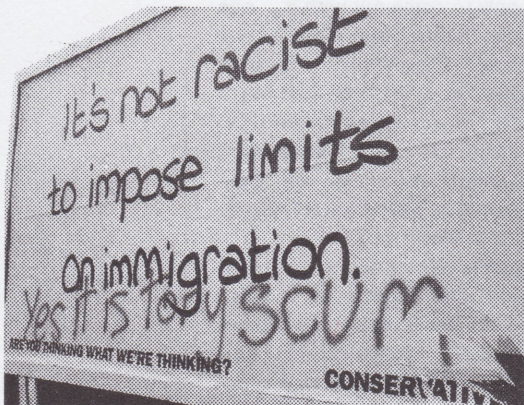
## Somali family deported from Bristol

(from ARAG newsletter)

A Somali family – the mother and four children - were deported back to Somalia last December 2004. The family's claimed asylum in 2002 but this was turned down by the Home Office. The family's solicitor appealed against the decision, believing that the Home Office mistook the decision. It was then twice refused by the Home Office stating that the case of the claim was not strong enough and did not particularly show any personal life threat, neither injuries nor torture.

The family disclosed their case to the court where final decision was made. Then the mother of the four children decided she no longer wanted to stay in this country, and instead preferred to go back and get killed in Somalia. The court and Home Office gave no chance to retake and rethink the family's claim; the only option left to them was to accept a voluntary return to their country. Two of the children were going to school where they made friends and they were enjoying the life they had fully adopted here. Somalia has lived a chaotic situation since 1991 when former president Siyad Barre was ousted. The different factions collectively failed to restore peace and hope for their country due to their selfishness and greediness for power. Since then many Somalis have been subjected to looting, killing, raping and inhuman acts. Somalia is one of the few countries which was considered for automatic asylum not long ago, due to the hardship under civil war conditions.

As **bristle** readers may remember, the Home Office has tried before to deport other Somalis living in Bristol, like Maria Ikow (see issue 15).





# The campaign for Lina, Luis & Miguel continues

Since Bristle's last update on Lina, Luis and Miguel's application for asylum, the family have been waiting in the limbo that is the appeal process. The 'forced removal', family separation and eventual incarceration at Oakington Barracks will take some getting over for the whole family. The recent BBC TV undercover report on Oakington was filmed during Lina and Miguel's 18 day imprisonment and watching it proved an unpleasant reminder of those weeks.

Whilst detained, Lina had managed to secure the right to have her evidence and testimony considered in support of her family's application, having been erroneously denied this right on two previous visits to Immigration Centres.

Lina & Miguel were finally released on 13th December for the duration of the family's appeal, having received a refusal through the 'Fast Track' application process.

Since then, both Lina and Luis have been forced to give up their jobs and subsist on government benefits and the support of friends & supporters. Also, the possibility of looming deportation or detention together with their previous inhumane and cursory treatment at the hands of the Immigration Service, has meant that these past couple of months have continued to be an extremely anxious and traumatic time for the family.

Although Lina received an initial refusal, as a group of London Immigration Adjudicators stated in evidence in 2004, it is her appeal that represents 'the first reasoned consideration' of her application. Applications are generally rejected out of hand at the first stage.

Lina faced an uphill struggle to secure legal representation who were willing and able to take on their appeal at such short notice. However, a dedicated solicitor was found and papers were drawn up including expert witness reports and testimony that had never been previously considered. The family's solicitor and barrister put considerable work into presenting the case, and Lina finally made her appeal on Thursday 3rd March.

However, things continued to go awry till the last minute with a crucial page of evidence being mislaid between offices, the barrister not having been told of a witness' attendance at court and an English translator speaking in comedy Spanish. The fact that things can still be described as having 'gone well' illustrates the level of expectation appellants have of the legal process.

Unfortunately, the statistical likelihood of an appeal succeeding at this stage, and by a Colombian appellant, are next to nothing. Adjudicator decisions are often arbitrary and inexplicable and, regardless of the strength of Lina's claim, fears of an impending refusal and order to deport are very high.

Family and friends continue to hope and pray for the best whilst preparing for the worst – decision by end of March at the latest.

IMMIGRATION  
RECEPTION  
CENTRE  
OAKINGTON



By Josh

One cannot help but imagine how many hundreds and thousands of other individuals and families are being systematically disappeared from our neighbourhoods without the friendships and support Lina, Luis & Miguel have enjoyed.

Despite all the UN conventions for the protection of refugees, the United Kingdom Home Office and Immigration Service have continually tweaked the rules and regulations to make applying for asylum as difficult, and the process as intimidating, as possible.

The Home Office has seen nothing wrong with criminalising people for arriving with false documents, despite the

obvious necessity of doing so if you're fleeing state or institutional persecution. More recently they've decided to make it a criminal offence to destroy or be 'perceived' to have destroyed your documents. There are hundreds of individuals now in UK prisons for this supposed 'offence' and they will most probably be there with no outside support - if anyone knows details of any such cases please let me know via email ([joshstyx@yahoo.com](mailto:joshstyx@yahoo.com)) as people are wanting to ensure visits and support are on offer.

While we comfortably express outrage at the Big Brother mentality that threatens to issue us all with ID cards, people of colour in London are reporting increasing demands by Immigration Officials to present their papers on buses, tubes or in the street.

Asylum applicants are often flushed through a pretend legal process as fast as possible, offered minimal legal representation and receive arbitrary and biased decisions which, more often than not, seem to echo the sentiments of the 'Bleeding Hearted Bigots' of Middle England who blame all the country's ills on the imagined 'flood of scroungers and criminals' from abroad.

In order to fulfil this quarters' pledge to vanquish the 'scrounging hoards' from our shores, the Immigration Service consistently abducts applicants who are signing on regularly at a police station or are in the middle of a legal application. Soft targets, vulnerable men, women and children who are imprisoned at a moment's notice and silently disappeared.

(continues on page 7)

campaigns

bristle 19 - 5



(The campaign for Lina, Luis & Miguel continues)

(from page 6)

I heard someone describe today how our justice system is designed to allow 100 guilty people to walk free in order to avoid one innocent person being convicted (bit optimistic, mind!). It's obvious that our immigration system is designed to make sure 100 persecuted refugees are kicked out of the country to make sure one false claimant is not admitted

— no justice, no humanity.

We live in the 4th richest nation on the planet, thanks to a history of imperialism and a present of global debt slavery, we flog arms left right and centre adding to the scale of oppression and conflict on the planet, and yet we only rank about 9th in Europe for the number of refugees we offer asylum to, accommodating less than 2% of the global refugee population.

Refugees have contributed massively to this country, from fish & chips to Marks & Spencers, from the Mini to Michael Howard (sadly!). Immigrants overall make up 40-50% of our nursing staff and 20-30% of our doctors and make a net annual contribution of £2.5 billion to our economy. Yet despite such strong cultural, economic and historic contributions to this country, refugees and migrants are getting treated worse than criminals by our government, with our taxes funding these private prisons and dawn raids, in our towns & cities.



(ECC closure)

(from page 4)

On the other hand, the community of Easton had not recovered their trust in the organisation since the previous crises. Fair enough as after the previous crises there was not even a communiqué from the association and the AGM's were done almost in secret. Despite the tragedy of losing such a valuable resource for the community, the community did not react either.

After this, speculation regarding the future of the centre continues, from plans to re-open in two months, to leasing it to a religious group. A quick re-opening seems like another diversionary tactic by the council as, with all the staff sacked, activities interrupted, and the place in such a mess, to start from scratch will take ages. Lease for other purposes? Then the community reaction will be guaranteed. Some of the former staff are preparing to propose that the centre be re-opened as a co-operative venture, involving service users, local residents and the projects that still remain as tenants, but it seems that BCC is moving so quickly on the future of the centre, that there may be insufficient time to get such a proposal heard.

Meanwhile the future of the centre continues moving on in the shadows of this council and the Labour party. No communiqué or official information has been published when we are ready for print (22nd March). Meanwhile speculation regarding the movements of former management committee members and former staff members vying for a position in the re-opened centre continues. A really shady business where the community is once again the last one to know...

# Unity's manager runs with money

The manager of the Bristol based organization Unity (Fishponds Road) ran away with all the funds of this organization leaving nearly 80 staff in the street and the teenagers that they worked with taken away to be re-housed.

Paul Hayles run away with about £500,000 belonging to the organization Unity in February 2005. He had managed to become only manager by changing name and constitution of the organization from Libra to what was Unity. The previous organization's managers lived in Devon, and they complained about his decision taking him to court. The fact that Unity was able to register as charity puts in evidence deficiencies without the institutions. It's believed that his reason for leaving (apart from having not scruples to rob money) was to avoid the sentence against him from the tribunal.

Unity was an organization hosting disaffected teenagers with social problems and criminal record. They were taken out of their environment (most of them were from Plymouth), put into shared supervised accommodation in the ten houses that the organization belonged. Unity also provided them education, leisure and other activities. The project had much support as it was pioneering and dealing with very challenging teenagers whose only alternative left was this or a further history of crime and punishment.

Paul Hayles demonstrated that he was there just to await a situation like this when he could have access to such a sum, to grab it and run away. He even emptied his terminally ill moth-

er's account and abandoned her partner without any money. Once you know the project that he was managing and the

## Wanted



importance of it, you wonder how such a wanker could reach to that position. Sure that the efforts by so many to have a positive input in those kids has been demolished by his outrageous corrupted behaviour. The right role model for the kids on the hood.

But his action also meant the end of the project for very committed professionals. Eighty people between teachers, house workers and admin, who saw their project finished and themselves in the street. After three weeks, some of them hoped they would get paid the month that they were indebted, but the possibilities look remote. Eventually, there are chances to get paid, but that may be too

late. In the meantime they need to pay their mortgages, daily expenses, etc. Their situation, without previous notice or suspicion is devastating. Staff interviewed by Bristle, said they always thought of Paul as a 'dodgy' character but not to this point.

Meantime, hunters have started a new season arguing that the hounds need to keep active. I wonder why they don't use them for more positive aims like chasing bastards like this and rip him to pieces.

By Chalks



# Blocka-Cola

The heat is really being turned up against Coca-Cola in independent actions across the area. Despite compelling circumstantial evidence of their complicity in paramilitary assassinations of unionists in Columbia, the multinational arrogantly refuses to be brought to account for widespread allegations of human rights abuses in South America and India.

in solidarity with assassinated trade unionists.

by Cardiff Anarchist Network

Cardiff anarchists have challenged the intrusion of the teeth-rotting, fattening junk drink in sport. In Bristol, students have shaken the fizz out of Coca-Cola's can by kicking them off the campus at Bristol University. Severnshed has now also supported the boycott. Just when it looked like things couldn't get much worse for the unpopular pop, in March management at the Longwell Green depot woke up to find a mass blockade.

## Sport and Sponsorship. Do they get your Support?

Coca-Cola are very good at marketing to the masses. But they don't tell football fans about their use of paramilitaries in Colombia to intimidate union officials and workers in the bottling plants.

The Sinaltrainal Union have been trying to get basic rights and safe working conditions for Coca-Cola employees.

These actions are not welcomed by the Coca-Cola Company who let armed killers walk into factories

in the Kerala District in India where they are using millions of gallons of groundwater to bottle Coke. This has caused crop failure for thousands of small farmers. The Indian Government at first ignored the farmers, but now the farmers are using the courts and more direct means to let the Indian government and the company know how they feel. Coke: It's the Real Corporate Killer.

Coca-Cola stands accused in an American court of complicity in the paramilitary assassination of its own workers. Since 1993 Sinaltrainal, the food and drink workers union of Colombia has had fourteen of its leaders assassinated. Seven of them were Coca-Cola employees, and three were even murdered within the bottling plants themselves.

With the help of the United Steelworkers of America and the International Labour Rights Fund (ILRF), Sinaltrainal have taken a case to the US courts. On 31 March 2003, U.S. District Court Judge Jose E. Martinez ruled that there was indeed a case to answer. The case is ongoing.

Write to address below to find out if they have an ethical business policy:- Mr G. Thompson, Chief Executive Officer, The Football Association, 25 Soho Square, London.

See back page for Bristol Colombia Solidarity Group.



Photo:  
Simon Chapman

and threaten, beat workers at gunpoint for being a union member.

The Cola-Cola company has the power to stop this violence. Coca-Cola used its power when, in response to international pressure, the company finally halted the killing of trade union leaders at a Coke bottling facility in Guatemala in the 1980's.

The company is also guilty of crimes against the environment



16th March 2005

Colombian vice-president Francisco Santos gets painted at Bristol University



What does he complain about? He was asking for it... plus his mates found it hilarious!

Photos:  
Simon Chapman

## Coca Cola workers and union representatives killed in Colombia

HECTOR DANIEL USECHE BERON (1986)  
LUIS ALFONSO VELEZ VINAZCO. (1989)  
LUIS ANGEL DUQUE (1990)  
AVELINO ACHICANOY ERAZO (1993)  
HARRY LAGUNA TRIANA (1993)  
JOSE ELEASAR MANCO DAVID (1994)  
LUIS ENRIQUE GIRALDO ARANGO (1994)  
LUIS ENRIQUE GOMEZ GRANADO (1995)  
JOSE MANUEL BECERRA PACHECO (1996)  
TORIBIO DE LA HOZ ESCORCIA (1996)  
ALEJANDRO HERNANDEZ VANSTRAHLEN (1996)  
ISIDRO GIL GIL and ALCIRA HERRERA PEREZ (1996)  
GUILLERMO GOMEZ MAIGUAL (1998)  
VICTOR ELOY MIELES OSPINO and  
ELVIRA ROSA RAMIREZ P (1999)  
OMAR DARIO RODRIGUEZ SALAZAR (2000)  
HERNANDO CUARTAS (2000)  
OSCAR DARIO SOTO POLO (2001)  
ADOLFO DE JESUS MUNERA LOPEZ (2002)



# THE FIGHT TO SAVE PACKERS FIELD

By Sandra Willavoys



Packers Field is situated in Whitehall and edges Gordon Road, Johnson's Lane one side and the cycle track on the other. Until 1935 the chocolate factory in Greenbank owned it. During the recession in the 1930's the owner was forced to sell the land, and Bristol City Council bought it.

Since then, St George School and other local football and sports teams have used it intermittently for matches with permission from BCC. Local people for their own leisure activities have also used it for the past 20-30 years at least. The site has not been maintained properly by BCC for many years, most of the fencing is falling down and has gaps in.

When planning permission was agreed for St George School to be rebuilt and become 'the City Academy' a deal was done so they could develop an elite sports facility on Packers Field. This was seen as necessary because the rebuilding of the school meant the loss of their own on-site school playing fields.

The council and others ignored objections from local community representatives at this time, and a planning application for the development of Packers was submitted in 2002. The local community living around the site however, was having none of it! A group was formed and the application fiercely objected to. Shortly afterwards the application was suddenly withdrawn, and residents heaved a sigh of relief.

To their horror however, residents soon realized that the developers and money people had simply withdrawn and regrouped. In 2003 a scaled down phase 1 application went in and planning permission was granted in July 2004 by councillors who completely ignored opposition from residents. Funders of the scheme included Bristol City Football Club (2.5 million quid), UWE and BCC.

Having realised that so-called 'consultation' carried out by BCC was a joke as they completely ignored responses opposing the development, the legal aspects were considered, and it was (with the help of the Open Spaces Society) discovered that we could formally apply to have Packers Field registered as a 'Town Green' as long as we could prove that local people had

used the land for the past 20 years 'as of right'.

Users of the field filled out evidence questionnaires, and an application was submitted to the Registration Authority on the 13th July 2004. The registration Authority is Bristol City Council! After a period for objections, the applicant (me) received two huge files containing objections and so called evidence from solicitors acting for the City Academy and solicitors acting for Bristol City Council. This meant the council had two roles. One role as Registration Authority and one as objecting landowner - not much chance of justice then!

At the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee it was (grudgingly) agreed that a Public Enquiry should be held so that an independent inspector could decide whether Packers should be registered as a green. If registered, Packers will be protected from any current and future development. Although Packers has been used for more than twenty years by locals without permission and 'as of right', the opposition by the Council and Academy has already been fierce. They

are already using a dirty tricks campaign to discredit locals and tell lies about us and our application for registration.

The public enquiry will take place from 18th - 22nd April. We need to hear from people who use or have used Packers any time during the past twenty years. If you want to help and are prepared to attend the enquiry and make a statement about your use of the field, please contact Sandra on 0117 9517322.

We only have a couple of weeks before we must submit a list of people willing to attend.

**PLEASE HURRY OR LOSE PACKERS FOREVER!**

**PACKERS FIELD  
POSITIVE DIRECT ACTION**

**NEVER MIND  
THE ACADEMY**



Some photos from the fun day organized by the campaign and the Easton Cowboys (28-3-05). The programme included a football tournament (see sport pages), music by the Ambling Band and other amenities.



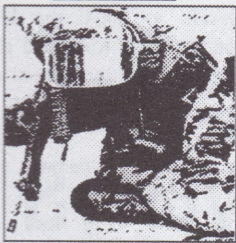
## THIS IS WHAT THE G8 STANDS FOR



**POVERTY**



**DESTRUCTION**



**CONTROL**



**WAR**

### HOW MUCH WILL YOU STAND FOR?

Join Bristol Dissent in resisting the G8 summit.  
Meets last Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm at Kebele,  
14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol.  
[www.dissent.org.uk](http://www.dissent.org.uk)

Bristol G8 Dissent ask the question:  
HOW MUCH WILL YOU STAND FOR?

The year so far has seen much media coverage of the G8 (Group of Eight most powerful/rich nations), especially in relation to the issues of climate change, and African debt and poverty. If you were to believe that media spin, you may think that this year's forthcoming G8 summit in Scotland offers the only, the one and only, opportunity to resolve those issues for all time. **We don't.**

In Bristle 18 we looked at what the G8 is, how it operates, and some of the (usually ignored) real and potential opposition to it. In this issue's Special, using edited versions of Briefing Papers produced by the Bristol G8 Dissent! Info Team, we examine some of the key issues and policies the G8 will be pushing, and how they are cocking them up. We worry about the weather, take a look at the related myth of capitalist sustainable development, go back to some economic basics with PFI (private finance initiative - privatisation), and end with the longest and biggest crime of all, the ongoing plunder of Africa. Mixed in with all this are some sources for further information, and a current list of known protests during the G8 summit. The special ends with an interview with CIRCA, and a serious look at the clown.

# the G8 GETTING DOWN TO BASICS

special

bristle 19 - 9



# Another Scorcher...

**W**hile it seems to be in the news a lot, climate change is perhaps the issue that has received least attention compared to the scale of destruction that life on earth is facing - yet hardly a day goes by without another scientific report being issued warning of the massive scale of the problem, supported by almost every independent climatologist in the world.

## Ticking time-bomb

Over 2,000 scientists are directly working for the United Nations to study climate change and its impacts. This is one of the largest mobilisations of scientific research ever undertaken.

All the scientists agree that we have a huge problem, suspected ever since 19th-century researchers identified the ability of carbon dioxide to store large amounts of heat. In 1997 3,000 scientists signed a Statement on Climatic Disruption. That year 1,500 scientists including 110 Nobel Prize winners signed a letter to US President Clinton calling for immediate action. In 1999 the 35,000 scientists in the US Geophysical Union adopted a position calling for action. In May 2001, the national scientific academies of 17 nations including the UK's Royal Society signed a statement calling for action. Ex-transport Minister, Stephen Byers, recently called it an ecological time bomb, with the world less than ten years from runaway global warming and rising sea levels. In 2004, the UK Government's chief scientific advisor, Sir David King, said climate change is the most serious problem facing the world,

## G8 GLENEAGLE'S SUMMIT EVENTS

- 18 June Bike ride to G8 leaves London [www.g8bikeride.org.uk/](http://www.g8bikeride.org.uk/)
  - 1 July Edinburgh critical mass
  - 2 July Make poverty history march & rally, from 11am in central Edinburgh [www.makepovertyhistory.org/](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/)
  - 3 July "Make Borders History" Tour in Glasgow [www.makebordershistory.org](http://www.makebordershistory.org)
  - 3 July Alternative Summit in Edinburgh [www.g8alternatives.org.uk/](http://www.g8alternatives.org.uk/)
  - 4 July Blockade Faslane nuclear sub base [www.faslaneg8.com/](http://www.faslaneg8.com/)
  - 4 July Carnival parade through Edinburgh, visiting dole offices, debt collectors, employment agencies and more! [www.dissent.org.uk](http://www.dissent.org.uk)
  - 5 July Protest at Dungavel Detention Centre near Glasgow.
  - 6 July Blockades & demos to stop the summit starting [www.dissent.org.uk](http://www.dissent.org.uk)
  - 6 July Global Day of Action - a day of decentralised actions against the G8, in villages, towns and cities worldwide [www.agp.org](http://www.agp.org)
  - 6-8 July Hill-walking actions in the Ochil Hills, south-east of Gleneagles [www.dissent.org.uk](http://www.dissent.org.uk)
  - 7 July Blockades, demos & decentralised actions continue
  - 7 July Prisoner support
  - 7 July People's Golfing Association open golf tournament on the lawn of Gleneagles golf course [www.tao.ca/~wrench/dist/g8/pgs.html](http://www.tao.ca/~wrench/dist/g8/pgs.html)
  - 8 July Global day of Direct Action against climate change [www.dissent.org.uk/g8climateaction](http://www.dissent.org.uk/g8climateaction)
- Legal info - [www.g8legalsupport.info/](http://www.g8legalsupport.info/)
- Updates, info & links <http://indymedia.org.uk/>

## WANTED

The G8 is coming to Scotland  
6th to 8th July 2005

Mass protests are expected against the G8 and a massive policing operation is being planned. We are seeking volunteer **legal observers** for the protests to help uphold people's right to protest. No special knowledge is required and training will be provided

For more information please contact:  
[g8legalsupport@riseup.net](mailto:g8legalsupport@riseup.net)

### Principles

1. We give unconditional support to anyone arrested as a result of participation in protests or actions against the G8. We are not the judge and jury of the validity or otherwise of the tactics of protesters.
2. The role of legal observers is to observe, gather evidence and witness.
3. Legal observers will not mediate between protesters and the police or negotiate with the police.
4. Legal observers are volunteers with no special legal status.
5. Legal observers are not necessarily trained lawyers and the advice given by legal observers is confined to the advice given by the group as a whole.

The G8 Legal Support Group works in part of the Disent network of resistance against the G8. Visit: [www.dissent.org.uk](http://www.dissent.org.uk)





# OH SHIT!

more  
serious than interna-  
tional terrorism.

## Destructive addictions

All this while the government goes to war on the basis of being 45 minutes from non-existent weapons of mass destruction, in order to continue satisfying our fossil fuel addicted lurch towards slow extinction. As yet serious action on this issue has not materialized, and there's not going to be much point campaigning after the waves start washing over our shores and the oil's too expensive to drill. While environmentalists see climate change as a threat to our weather, the US government sees it as a threat to American freedoms. While Blair has been delighting NGOs with promises of a low-carbon economy, he has been busy pleasuring Bush by lobbying to remove stringent emissions targets from Europe's climate policy.

Houston, we have a problem. Perhaps the greatest triumph of the G8 governments (with the exception of the US) has been to shift the focus onto the Kyoto Agreement, which requires puny cuts of 5% in emissions (excluding aircraft) - somewhat at odds with the immediate 60-80% cut in CO2 output scientists are demanding to avert disaster.

Yet big business, far from worrying about the collapse of capitalism, are increasingly realising the major potential for increasing profits. While buzzwords like 'low carbon economy' enter the greenwashed corporate environmental statements, carbon trading is embraced as a new and profitable branch of the futures and commodities markets. 'Smokestack' corporations can simply relocate to countries like Vietnam or South Africa, soaking up those free carbon credits while exporting their pollution to the world's poor. The nuclear industry has also received an unexpected breath of life on its deathbed, arguing the only way to cut emissions while continuing with business as usual is for a massive expansion of nuclear energy. Note the assumption there.

Bristol G8 Dissent! presents...

## INFORMATION FOR ACTION

A day of workshops and presentations in preparation for the forthcoming visit of the G8 to Gloucestershire and Bristol.

Includes: poster screening, direct action, music, poetry, film, debate, discussion, food, refreshments, and a chance to meet the G8.

Stalls, information, kids zone, food, after party.

Saturday 9th April 10.30 - 5.30  
Malcom X Centre, Ashley Rd,  
St Pauls, Bristol

Entry Free/Donation

## G8 - Global Warming or Global Warning?

Scorched earth - Bristol dayschool  
poster with Urdu translation

### State of denial

So what can be done at the grassroots? We have to be honest about the mess we are in regarding climate campaigning. The green movement has comprehensively failed to drive this as an issue. By focusing on energy alternatives, such as carpeting the country with windmills, it has provided the nuclear industry with the agenda it needs to cast itself as the great white hope (try asking pro-nuclear campaigners how much fossil fuel the nuclear industry consumes annually). Yes, wind and solar are going to be important for a low-energy future, but the agenda of massive over-consumption of energy, despoiling of the seas, forests and air, inequality and military-industrial oppression of much of humanity needs to be confronted.

It's a desperate situation, almost as if a magic bullet was required to penetrate our state of denial. We cannot leave it just to the scientists to dismantle the carbon machine, but fortunately the ideas are already being translated into action. Rising Tide, an international network of direct activists, are active in relation to the G8 summit and held a tour of the UK in 2001, resulting in many innovative ideas. Perhaps by identifying the most oppressive and unwelcome forms of over-consumption in your own neighbourhood - the SUVs driving past your house, the floodlit billboard round the corner - an effective target can be found for that magic bullet. **b**

### MORE INFO

[g8climateaction@lists.riseup.net](mailto:g8climateaction@lists.riseup.net)

Dissent! organising list for action  
related to the G8 and  
climate change:

[www.risingtide.org.uk](http://www.risingtide.org.uk)

[www.campaigncc.org](http://www.campaigncc.org)

[www.carbonweb.org](http://www.carbonweb.org)

[www.NoNewOil.org](http://www.NoNewOil.org)

High Tide: News from a Warming World  
Tales from a global journey on the chilling  
and far-reaching devastation already being  
wrought by climate change by a former member  
of Corporate Watch UK. See [www.marklynas.org](http://www.marklynas.org)



# MUMMY, WHY DID YOU USE UP A THE WORLD RESOURCES

## What Big Brother Won't Tell You

Buried in the recent rush of important news about celebrities and elections, you may have missed a series of reports showing that our earth is being destroyed at a frightening rate: 'Worst sea bird breeding season' (BBC), or 'The polluted planet: Alarm as global study finds one-third of amphibians face extinction' (*Independent*), or 'Hundreds of bird species going the way of the dodo' (*Guardian*).

If you think worrying about the natural world is for hippy tree-huggers, then consider that for every one barrel of oil discovered, we consume three - this while the UK's use of oil and gas is being projected to rise each year until at least 2030. Thanks to global warming, broad areas of Antarctica are now forming turf where there were once ice-sheets and glaciers. Scary stuff.

By whatever measure you choose to take, the world of globalisation and capitalism is just not sustainable. To blind us to this reality, the politicians have invented the concept of 'sustainable development' - in their words, 'A higher quality of life for all people is the goal of sustainable development.' (G7 1995 Meeting). The problem with this lofty statement is that, for all people on the planet to achieve the living standards of the US, it would require three planets worth of resources - how is this possible with the rat-race in full flow?

## Blair to the Rescue!

Thankfully Blair and his band of merry men are on hand to save the day; 'To become more resource efficient we need to accelerate the de-coupling of resource use and growth in GDP.' In plain English - we need to get rich without using stuff (oil, timber, gas, metals etc.) How is this economic magic going to work? Nobody seems to be sure. Tony recently remarked, "If we were to put forward as a solution to climate change something which would involve drastic cuts in economic growth or standards of living, it would not matter how justified it was, it simply would not be agreed to.' Translation - there is no such thing as sustainability within the current system, but I can't tell you that. Bush's plans for sustainable development? Tax cuts for the rich, drilling for oil in the Alaska wildlife refug, and war without end.

Here's a final pearl of wisdom from the government; "It is a simple fact that, as we become more efficient at producing

things we will get wealthier. And as we get wealthier we are able to produce and consume more goods and services. In the longer term therefore it is only by finding new, less wasteful ways of meeting our needs that we can move to a sustainable path." However being 'less' wasteful is not the same as being 'sustainable'. 'Less' means not as much as before.

'Sustainable' is a cycle that can be kept going forever while 'development' (in this context) means economic growth - growth that can be kept going forever? In the words of Professor Richard Heinberg, an expert on resource use and human ecology, "Beyond a certain point nature does not negotiate. If all else fails, there is always famine and disease to take care of it." Reject their deceit. Their Babylon must fall.

## Alternatives to the G8: Life in Balance

Not every life on this planet needs to be reduced to dollar bills. If we reject the notion that profit is God, we can build a world that works with nature rather than smashes it into submission. First we need to reject the notion of capitalism. We are trained to see money as trade as wealth - an inseparable trinity. This is a lie. To say there can be no wealth or trade without money is to say there can be no time without hours. With this in mind, below are some inspirational examples of life getting back into balance.

## Co-operative Action

Acting together is the opposite of capitalism. We can see this idea in action in many places. Born in the UK in 1844, Bristol

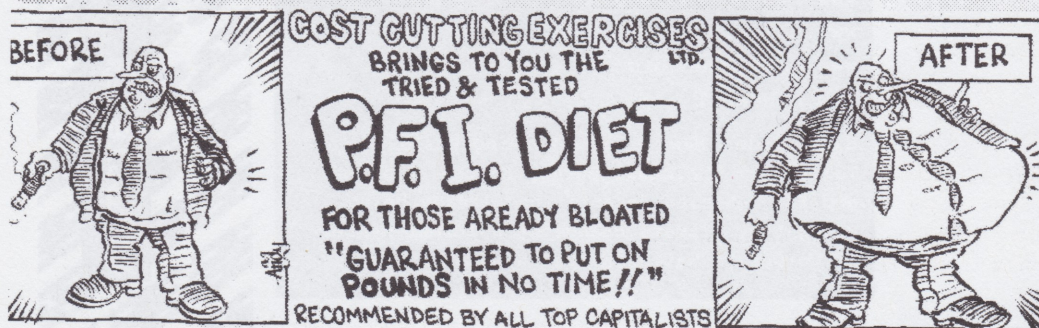
# Another corporate con:

**The Private Economy** is the Capitalist model where sole traders, partnerships and companies exist to make profit as the key driving force. When Companies register as "corporate bodies", in this country under the companies act, they legally assume the rights of a person. The legal purpose of

their existence is profit-making, or to exploit labour for profit - or as Michael Moore says: "The bottom line is the bottom line" Costs such as wages & impacts on the environment are externalized and therefore marginalized. Corporations are the single most powerful driving force in society.

## The Public Economy

Is industry in state or government control - such as the NHS, schools, army, police, the civil service and local government. It is known as the public sector. Forms of socialism committed to state ownership of the economy, following the Communist Manifesto in 1848 and the rise of the Trades Union movement in the same century, are seen (incorrectly, but never mind that!) as the ultimate outcomes of communist and socialist theory. The Labour Party's 'Clause 4' committed them to a manifesto of state ownership, until it was abolished under Neil Kinnock's leadership, and led to the liberalisation of the Party.





# LET THEM ALL OF WORLD'S FORCES

currently has some 90 co-operatives doing everything from food production to IT support. Some coops are run less as a company and more along the lines of a club - for example the Stroud-based Catalyst Food Coop works to provide its members with fair-trade and organic produce.

## The Navdanya Organisation

Dr. Vandana Shiva, an Indian Physicist, has been championing the idea of 'freedom zones': "It led her to help found the organization Navdanya, [translation 'nine seeds' meaning 'ecological balance'] which forms seed banks and trains Indian farmers to produce traditional crops without chemical pesticides or fertilizers. To date, she says, about 100,000 farmers have returned to traditional, organic farming methods in villages now dubbed 'freedom zones'. Navdanya has opened an organic market in New Delhi to sell the produce." (Quote from article at [www.mindfully.org](http://www.mindfully.org)).

## Buena Vista Fossil Fuel Club

Cuba is famous for laid-back funky

## CONSUMERISM FOR BEGINNERS



Sidewalk Bubblegum ©1993 Clay Butler

music, rum and socialism. It may soon be famous for showing the way on sustainable farming methods. When the USSR mutated into Ru\$\$ia and replaced one set of authoritarian rule for another, it stopped the cheap supply of oil to both Cuba and North Korea. While people in North Korea starve, Cuba looked towards autonomous self-management rather than militarism and the results have been pretty spectacular. Outside of capitalism, Cuba is successfully making the transition to a more sustainable society: "The World Bank has reported that Cuba is leading nearly every other developing nation in human development performance. Because Cuba's agri-

cultural model goes against the grain of orthodox economic thought, the World Bank has called Cuba the 'anti-model'... This despite that fact that the Cuban model flies in the face of the neoliberal reforms prescribed by both the World Bank and the IMF." (Quote from 'Drawing Lessons from Experience Part 2' by Dale Allen Pfeiffer; see [www.copvicia.com/free/ww3/](http://www.copvicia.com/free/ww3/)). **b**

### MORE INFO

[www.avoneda.coop/](http://www.avoneda.coop/)  
[www.vshiva.net/](http://www.vshiva.net/)  
[www.bristolfoe.org.uk/bpg/](http://www.bristolfoe.org.uk/bpg/)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/  
group/bristolpeakoilers](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bristolpeakoilers)

# pfi

## The Mixed Economy

In reality most economies are a mixture of private and public, for example President Roosevelt adopting the "New Deal" to rebuild America's infrastructure through public expenditure in the 1930-40's. Many European economies support their transport and energy industry through state support, while Russia and China have opened their markets up to Western multinational corporations.

Until the mid-seventies, all Western governments operated an economic model founded by J.M. Keynes. He believed the relationship between inflation and employment was inverse, and that govern-

ment could stimulate the economy through public expenditure in times of recession, as Roosevelt had done. In the 1970's this theory was exploded when inflation and unemployment occurred at the same time. A new economist, Milton Friedman, expounded a theory called Monetarism. According to this sound economic growth was based on a low inflation economy, with the single biggest cause of inflation being public expenditure. This gave Thatcher the intellectual backing to slash public expenditure, and commence privatizing steel, oil, coal, railways, Post Office, buses and public utilities, and to line up education and health. It also gave her the opportunity to smash trade union power, particularly the miners.

## Neo Liberalisation or Naked Capitalism?

Curiously, selling off state assets has become known as 'liberalisation'. Curious, because Liberalism has histori-

cally been linked to a mixed economy approach. The real meaning is simply that of opening up assets to corporate control. In an international context, multinationals are seeking to develop control of developing nations, such as Coca Cola's attempt to control water in Colombia.

## An alternative to Corporate or State Control

In 1840 Pierre-Joseph Proudhon published "Qu'est-ce-que la propriété?" which represented the first linkage of the term Anarchy as a political system of thought. His Anarchist vision foresaw a society based on co-operatives, collectives and decentralized forms of government. In Spain in the 1930's, following a period of 50 years of anarchist struggle driven by anarchist trades unions (FAI and CNT), this model was followed. In the UK, the co-operative movement had been born in Rochdale in 1844, and its principles recognized by the International Co-operative Alliance in 1895. Co-op

continued on next page



**BLAIR & NEW LABOUR** are promoting African debt & poverty, as a main issue for this years G8 Summit in Scotland. In preparation, Blair's Commission on Africa produced its recommendations. Additionally, we have had the re-recording of Band Aid, another annual Comic Relief, and a stream of reports, media articles and programmes on the subject. So will poverty become history in 2005?

### A plundered continent

African history makes uneasy reading for anyone with the slightest conscience or sense of human solidarity. Plundered by West European empires and traders for centuries - colonisation, theft of natural resources, repression, and enslavement & deportation of its people. The wealth accumulated by Bristol's merchants & traders was replicated across Europe and the Americas, as early, generally white, capitalists got very rich indeed.

The slow eradication of slavery did not end Africa's misery. Colonial regimes and puppet governments & dictators continued the thieving. Post WW2 Africa was another cold war playground for the West & the USSR, ensuring ongoing civil wars, chaos, death and plunder. Tragically, national liberation movements, despite their sometimes socialist rhetoric, and their heroic struggles against all odds, led often to the replacement of one set of foreign rulers with equally barbaric and dictatorial home-grown ones - usually reliant on an external power for their domination. As capitalism has modernised, the theft and exploitation of Africa's resources has continued, now less obviously by foreign nations and more blatantly by multinational corporations.

As imperialist powers withdrew, they took the expertise & governing structures they'd imposed on Africa, leaving behind the false nation states they had created across the continent. They also took, and continue to take, those Africans who we may term 'middle-class' - educated, with specialist skills. The old ways of the tribes had been largely repressed or destroyed, now they found themselves expected to follow the ways of the West's industrialised, 'democratic' states, but without the skills to do so, with a

# Africa's misery.

continuing 'brain drain'. They have continued to be ripped-off by western financial institutions & corporations, who have greased the palms of any dictators or ruling elites. Wealth has flowed out of Africa into the pockets of western business & banks, and the overseas accounts of the ruling elite. The result - more chaos, debt, poverty, disease, and civil war.

### Gaping wounds & band-aids

Largely white do-gooders have been travelling to Africa for centuries. Despite the best intentions of some of them, they have been part of the colonisation, exploitation, and creation of dependency. The Church sent missionaries to help 'civilise' the 'savages', and teach them about 'our' god - that very wealthy one that forms part of the system that rules us. Many NGO's (non-governmental organisations, charities) arose from such beginnings ie Oxfam & Christian Aid. The TV era brought heart-wrenching pictures of starving & sick kids and their mums, and the inherent humanity & solidarity of many westerners ensured we gave vast donations towards aid for these tragic people. The aid industry acknowledges that in the west those with the least to give, give proportionally the most. It is no irony that in the west, those with the least income pay proportionally more in taxes; whilst Africa pays proportionally the highest amounts of GDP back to the western banks/institutions in debt repayments. Think on that a moment.

The Ethiopian famine on our TV sets in 1984 led to BandAid, LiveAid, Comic Relief and an upsurge in donations to old and new charities. Yet Geldof has admitted recently that Africa is worse off now than in 1984. In fact, Africans are proportionately poorer now than 40 years ago! In Ethiopia alone, 5 to 8 million people are reliant on food aid to survive each year.

### The Commission on Africa

Aid and charity has not worked, in the majority of cases at least. It is a multi-million pound business, offering very well paid careers, especially at the top-end of its bureaucratic structures. Some would say it has re-launched a thousand showbiz careers! But continued poverty in Africa has become an embarrassment. There is a growing awareness, fuelled by the aggressive cam-

paigning of some - such as the Drop the Debt campaign, that our political & big business elites are taking the piss over Africa. We keep giving, they keep getting poorer, and the corporations keep getting richer.

The terms & conditions of 'loans' to Africa; the requirements that they privatise everything in the name of 'structural adjustment programmes'; the restrictions on their trade out whilst taking our goods (and weapons) in; and the ongoing corruption of corporations and ruling elites does not give Africa a chance. This has led Blair and his New Labour cohorts to act out of a confused, and hypocritical, christian-socialist form of morality along with Blair's selfish desire to be remembered in history for something good. That has led to the cancellation of bi-lateral debts (where one country owes one other country) to the UK.

Blair's Commission correctly identifies some problems - corruption and exploitation; lack of internal infrastructures & resources for education, health, training & administration; massive failure to alleviate disease; trade restrictions. It does call for - 100% cancellation of both bi-lateral and multilateral debt (being debt owed to more than one country, usually an institution such as the IMF or World Bank) for at least the 42 HIPC (42 poorest African nations); for massive increases in aid (not loans) to fund education, health, housing, water provision, training & other basic programmes; for the removal of restrictive trade barriers and tariffs to stimulate the economy.

But these proposals are underpinned by the expectation that all western nations, institutions & banks will comply, of which there is zero guarantee - the US has already ruled out 100% debt cancellation due to corporate pressure; and by an idea named the International Finance Facility (IFF), a brainchild of Gordon Brown's. The IFF intends to raise money in private finance markets, guaranteed by government bonds (essentially our, taxpayers, money). Which is a bit like saying 'you give them 50 quid, and if you don't get it back with interest our taxpayers will bale you out.' Which sounds to us like another con-trick to help corporations make money, which may not help Africa.

### What the west really wants

Never mind such illusions as fair-trade, or trade justice, such concepts are alien to capitalism, and will only be embraced in any way if profit can be made out of them - hence Starbucks & Tesco's getting fair-trade certification! What the G8 & cor-

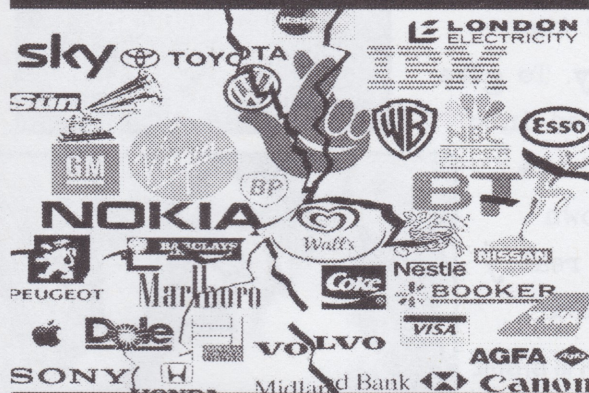
The writings on the wall.  
Bristol graffiti (photo Bristle)





# capital's gain

## organised CRIME



## together we'll CRACK IT.

porations really want is this: a market to expand into. They want a relatively(!) healthy, educated, skilled, un-unionised workforce to produce goods cheaply; and they want a relatively peaceful, stable, healthy continent to consume those products. A continent they can control. They look at Africa and they think of China, with its fast growing economy & consumption, where 60% of all exports come from businesses wholly or partly western controlled. When they talk of freedom & democracy, the only human rights they have in mind are those that allow you to exist on their terms - enslaved under capitalism, the consumer society, and personal debt, with only the false illusion of choice. Just like in the West.

### What can we do?

We know aid & charity doesn't work, particularly when tied up with imposing western values & structures. Some NGOs work to encourage self-help & self-management in Africa, to facilitate the desires of African people, not impose on them. Look into it and help where you can. Although we very rarely hear of them, there are massive social movements in some African nations, continuing their tradition of struggle, but directed towards land rights, workers rights, resisting privatisation & oppression & corruption, demanding access to resources.

The most useful things we can do are to oppose the corporations & ruling elites in our countries. Yes, buy ethically if we can, but more importantly confront & harass the institutions, corporations and politicians at home, give them no peace, and bring about change here. **b**

### MORE INFO

[www.african-initiatives.org.uk/](http://www.african-initiatives.org.uk/)  
[www.jubilee2000uk.org/](http://www.jubilee2000uk.org/)  
[www.wdm.org.uk/](http://www.wdm.org.uk/)  
[www.iflwatchnet.org/](http://www.iflwatchnet.org/)

continued from previous page

### Another Corporate Con: PFI

principles have been applied to work, food, housing and land. There are currently 750 million members of co-ops worldwide. Neither private nor public, these are non-hierarchical autonomous organisations working within a free market that is not capitalist. There are 1500 workers co-ops in the UK.

### What is the Private Finance Initiative (PFI)?

The next phase of privatisation in the UK is in education, health and transport. This is relegated down the media agenda for discussion, and contrary to popular belief the Labour government has accelerated PFI for many of the key assets of our economy.

Under PFI, our schools and hospitals are sold off bit by bit to private companies that act in the interests of their shareholders. Local rural hospitals are closed to build 'super-hospitals', making people travel further, using taxpayers' money to fund the profits of the building contractors at a much greater cost to us taxpayers than a simple total refurbishment would have cost.

### How does it work?

PFI means going to the private sector to take out loans on which interest rates are higher than normal for government borrowing, and then paying private sector profits on top. These repayments have to be made like a mortgage over 20 or 30 years, out of income - whether that's a hospital's revenue that might otherwise be used to pay doctors and nurses, or the school budget which might otherwise pay teachers, or a council's income that could be used on other services. Ministers argue that savings made by more efficient private-sector managers will more than offset the costs, but the evidence so far is unconvincing. However, when the contractor's standards do not meet all of the requirements, or the deal becomes not profitable enough, the contractor can pull out of the deal, leaving its mess behind it. The government (taxpayers) are left to pay for it to be refinanced, and meanwhile the school/uni/hospital must carry on.

Like hire purchase, the government ends up paying several times the original bill. This government is now building up debt for the future. Firms can walk out at any point on their own grounds if they decide or want to. Furthermore, the new services are only designed to last for the contract period - expecting that in 20 years time, another contract must be made. The full effect of PFI will be felt in 20 years time - when it will be FAR TOO LATE to do anything, except regret mistakes. The private companies bleed our public services dry, and the politicians that made the mistakes will be long gone (to the private sector!).

PFI mishaps are well documented, and beginning to emerge onto our news screens. So too are Public Private Partnerships [PPP], most notably the London Underground. Despite profits of £2 million per week, the private firms still failed 87 out of 181 performance measures. Business elites cite the many successes of PFI as a reason to continue with the sell-off of our country to private firms. They take for granted a certain proportion will go wrong. But when people's health and education are at stake, can we afford for a single project to go wrong?

### Where does the G8 fit into this?

The crucial thing to consider is IN WHOSE INTERESTS ARE THE GOVERNMENT ACTING? In the interests of the people, as they have a democratic mandate to do, or in the interests of business? Are they acting in your interests? Is the government making it easier or harder for private firms to get hold of OUR (taxpayers) money? These are the questions we must never stop asking.

We must also consider how far the UK willing to go along with the Project for a New American Century and the stated aims of neoliberalism - private ownership of everything. Consider how far this can ultimately go, and whether we want everything & anything to have an 'owner', from material goods to ideas. Where will it stop? Who is going to stop it?

But surely, privatisation has nothing to do with G8 because they don't talk about it? EXACTLY. It's buried in the agenda. But WE do not feature in any part of the decision making process on key issues such as this. It all happens behind closed doors. They set the agenda to talk about issues we have been talking about for years. When the leaders talk at G8, think about what assumptions they have made and what they are NOT talking about, but is implicit in their rhetoric. **b**

special  
G8

bristle 19 - 15



# CIRCA

## CLANDESTINE INSURGENT

### Present:

Sub lieu-tenant Latte (SLL)  
and Accounted for  
WIP (Work in Progress)  
Kolonel Klepton (KK)  
General Confusion GF)

One great achievement of the G8 leaders has been to create an amazing coalition of malcontents! Bristol is shortly to see the launch of the Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army. To give you a taster of what to expect we stepped into the officers' mess for an interview. We have been privy to a communiqué from the Clown Army's 'special attachment in charge of really special words'. This is what they revealed.

**bristle:** Tell us about the plans for the forthcoming launch in Bristol.

**SLL:** You'll be able to catch the caravan show behind the Tobacco Factory on Saturday May 21st starting at about 6 pm as part of the South Bank Arts Trail, we are still looking for a site for the trickster trainings that will take place all day Saturday and Sunday, and will of course include the BRCT (Basic Rebel Clown Training). You'll be able to sign up on the website [www.labofii.net](http://www.labofii.net)

**bristle:** How do you think that clowning is able to make links and break down barriers between people more effectively than conventional tactics?

**SLL:** Clowns re-imagine authority, can laugh at the rules made by others, I mean, really it was the fool in her innocence that pointed out that the emperor had no clothes? Right? Well it is a police state already and we are all just rolling along thinking everything is okey dokey, or running around like chicken little shouting the sky is falling the sky is falling, but it already has, and the clowns and fools and buffoons are necessary to be able to point with our wide-eyed innocence and simply say LOOK this is really stupid, or say hey really smart what a great idea, a police state, why didn't we think of that, we can make everybody wear big shoes and throw pies!

Ok They are cutting down rainforests to make toilet paper, destroying rain forests in Brazil so we can wipe our asses with purple toilet paper, this is sooooo stupid, what are we thinking? New tactics aren't about confrontation, because obviously everybody agrees with us, killing is bad, and trees are more important than wiping your behind in technicolour.

The fool, the clown, the trickster, and the buffoon all have different ways and means of dealing with the ignorance of injustice, but all forms of rebel clowning are based on the belief that the clown crafts their own reality and doesn't acknowledge or accept the reality created by an outside authority.

**KK:** CIRCA is not another excuse to dress up and bring colour and laughter to the grey ranks of protests. It isn't just a ragged bunch of activists sporting false noses, a smudge of grease paint, camouflage pants and bad wigs, but a highly disciplined army of immaculately trained clowns, a militia of authentic fools, a battalion of natural buffoons.

Within CIRCA we are developing a form of political activism that brings together the ancient practice of clowning and the more recent practice of non-violent direct action. We aim to develop a methodology that transforms and sustains the inner emotional life of the activists as well as being an effective technique for taking direct action. CIRCA sees both the soul and the street as sites of struggle, realising that a destructive tendency within many activist movements is forgetting the inner work of personal transformation and healing. Innovative forms of creative street action are crucial for building and inspiring movements.

**bristle:** Tell us about the great West End pie fight with the pro-capitalists!

**SLL:** I thought the red carpet was for me you can imagine how excited I was....oops sorry, I got away with myself, Klepto has a great story and he is going to tell you that instead, and well, maybe we can talk about the pie fight next time.

**KK:** Clunk! The heavy metal shutters of the armed forces recruitment centre roll down. It's 3 o'clock on a Friday afternoon in Leeds city centre, no more soldiers, sailors, or airmen will be joining up today. Inside the deserted office the glossy exhibition panels exclaim be the best in brash bold letters. But dreams of adventure and liberating foreign lands will have to be postponed, the office is shut for the day and a decidedly un-glossy spray painted banner with 'Closed' written in wobbly green letters, is stuck to the shutters. On the pavement outside a makeshift recruitment stall is set up, and dozens of leaflets are being handed out to passing shoppers 'Be Rubbish!', they entreat, 'Join the Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army!'

A few minutes previously 15 clownbatants from the CIRCA, dressed head to toe in combat gear delicately trimmed with pink and green fuzzy-fur and sporting sparkling steel colanders helmets, had marched into the centre and asked the recruiting officers if they could join up. In high pitched clown voices we told them about our previous experience in the clown army, displaying skills such as silly salutes, showing subversive slapstick drills, exhibiting the art of telling jokes that disarm and





# REBEL CLOWN ARMY

an interview... ←

explaining that where their bombs fail we might be able to succeed with laughter.

**bristle:** How does clowning contribute to – or detract from – confronting global capitalism and the buffoons that run the world?

**SLL:** Now, I might take offence at this, because the buffoon is sacred to me, the buffoons were originally the exiles and the outcasts which gathered in the outskirts of society and lived in little packs together. Well, once a year, they were invited back to perform for the elite of the city, and they created a show of such subtle mockery that the elite of the city did not realize at first that they were being mocked, but when they went home, when they got home they realized that the whores, and lepers, the differently formed and unloved HAD mocked THEM, and were sooooo humiliated that they (and well we don't believe in hurting any sentient life, but the elite took some rather grim measures upon themselves when they realized the scope of the humiliation).

OK but seriously, we are under a constant state of PSYOPS (psychological operations) that are making a lot of people think that capitalism is good for them, and they are complying! Going along with it thinking it smells nice and tastes good, but capitalism is the smell of shit on purple loo roll. In some ways clowning in PSYOPS working to disturb some of the bedrock of compliance that is keeping capitalism functioning.

**WIP:** The Lab serves as a self-organised, reciprocal and practice-led space for sharing tools, ideas, skills, tactics and actions. The actions which make up the Lab. of I.I. represent wonderful examples of new forms of cultural resistance, which assert that creativity, fun, pleasure, imagination, joyfulness, playfulness and humour do not dilute, or distract from, the political message they mean to carry but actually reinforce it. These actions literally embodied their claims, by putting the body back within the space of contest.

**bristle:** Does CIRCA subvert or reclaim the popular image of the clown (i.e. Ronald McDonald!) which some love and others find a bit of a bogey man?

**SLL:** Rebel Clowning draws on the various ancient traditions of the fool, buffoon, clown, and trickster most of which bear little or no resemblance to the party clowns that make animals out of balloons. But part of BRCT is the work of discovering your inner clown and well somebody may have an inner Ronald and I can't really comment on that.

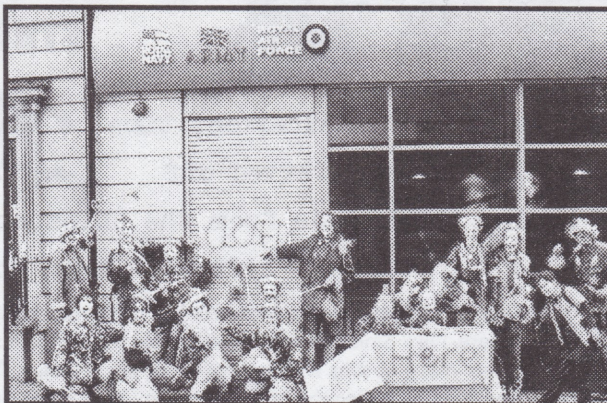
**KK:** CIRCA's combatants don't pretend to be clowns, they are clowns, real clowns. Clowns that have run away from the anaemic safety of the circus and escaped the banality of kids parties, Fools that have thrown away their sceptres and broken the chains that shackled them to the throne. CIRCA aims to make clowning dangerous again, to bring it back to the street, reclaim its disobedience and give it back the social function it once had: its ability to disrupt, critique and heal society. Since the beginning of time tricksters (the mythological origin or all clowns) have embraced life's contradictions, creating coherence through confusion, adding disorder to the world in order to expose its lies and speak the truth. The clown soldiers that make up CIRCA embody life's contradictions, they are both fearsome and innocent, wise and stupid, entertainers and dissenters, healers and laughing stocks, scapegoats and subversives.

**WIP:** CIRCA aims to subvert dominant discourses through ridicule, unexpected behaviours and unexpected identities. When clowns dress in army fatigues ornamented with pink fluffy fur, with feather dusters as weapons and colanders on their heads to march into an army recruitment office, the conventions of discourse of the military is subverted on several levels: the interactional conventions in the recruitment office are turned upside down with clowns rejecting the 'naturally' expected subordinate and obedient position of the 'client' in the recruitment office and even more so when disobeying the orders to get out of the office; the propagandist campaign aiming at associating the military with notions of 'freedom' and 'liberation' is highlighted and ridiculed by clowns requesting 'to join in order to liberate people with love'; the masculinity of the military is subverted by androgynous clowns whose gender is unidentifiable. Thus the epitome of symbolic authority, whose function is to maintain the status quo through force, is 'attacked' through a type of subversion which goes beyond mere text and enters its context of production.

**bristle:** How might clown cadets enlist for the Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army?

**SLL:** We launch the tour in Bristol on May 20th and will be touring the UK ending in Scotland—you can come to a trickster training any where along the way or we will have a week long big shoe camp at the end of June in Scotland.

You can go to [www.clownarmy.org](http://www.clownarmy.org) or [www.labofii.net](http://www.labofii.net)



an interview... ←

an interview... ←

bristle 19 -17



# BRISTOL SABS UPDATE

## JAN-FEB 2005



Bristol Sabs had an excellent time during January. We started off with taking the hounds from the Chipstable Hunt on Boxing Day and were left with them for ages!

**W**e've had lots of fun with the Avon Vale Hunt. We watched as the huntsman's best mate, Mike Smith, was reported under Section 5 of the Public Order Act, after riding at sabs and then swearing at the police! They're unable to hunt as we stick with them calling the hounds our way. Unfortunately they were seen with a fox's tail on the 15th although they only managed the kill by hunting in Keovil Air Field, M.O.D. land which we couldn't get onto.

We also managed to stop the terrier men of the Duke of Beaufort Hunt from digging out a fox, which they told us they were going to shoot.

The same week we saved another fox from the Berkeley Hunt. After it passed us we stopped the hounds and sent them the wrong way. Later we stopped the hounds again as they chased after deer! While sabbing the Berkeley we also found an artificial earth and its top hatch, proof that foxes are not a pest but a victim of an evil game.

On the 29th we sabbed the Cheshire Forest Hunt, with several other groups, for the anniversary of Mike Hill's death, who died sabbing in Cheshire 14 years ago. One rider parroted the old cliché that 'foxes are mean, they kill everything'; if it wasn't for such good sabbing we could have said the same about her!

We also sabbed the Avon Vale Hunt every Saturday during February. On the 5th we saw a fox running for its life around the field we were in with hounds chasing a few metres behind. Amazingly it got away; aided as we tried to stop the hounds and call them back towards us.

The final Saturday before the 'ban' was a very sad day, although we did save one fox. The fox was seen by some hunt staff and supporters who signalled for the huntsman and hounds. But as we blocked their way they decided not to go after it and we heard one redcoat say 'we don't want it!!' Later that day we found the huntsman and around six other redcoats gathered to watch a dig-out – as if they were watching T.V. As there were only three of us all we could do was film the dig-out. The police had followed and quickly arrested one sab for Aggravated Trespass. After 'considering the circumstances' the officer de-arrested the sab, away from the hunt.

After the 'ban' on the 19th Feb we found they still had the law on their side! Without one officer monitoring the hunt, the large police presence was focused entirely on trying (unsuccessfully) to arrest sabs. Before we went out our Landrover had its windscreen smashed and this and another car had their tyres slashed. With 25 sabs and only one seven-seater vehicle we struggled to keep up with the hunt but at one point saw them trail hunting. This was obviously just for show – after losing them at the end of the day we heard them announce on the radio that they had killed a fox.

### Why we'll be sabbing for years to come

After reading the Hunting Act first hand it is clear there is a lot of truth in statements that 'it won't save the life of a single fox'. While the League Against Cruel Sports say the day of the 'ban' was 'a great day British wildlife' I'd happily join the Beaufort Hunt in throwing (vegan) food at Labour MPs!

The Hunting Act is not about the moralities of hunting but about the technicalities. Foxes will now be flushed from woods and shot dead, making it harder for us to save them. We don't want foxes 'humanely' killed, we want them left alone! But the Act doesn't ban the murder of wildlife. Even the digging out of foxes, from below ground, has not been named and shamed in the Act so can continue legally.

We may catch out some hunts on technicalities but they will probably get off, or maybe, get a limited fine. All that's been banned is hounds killing animals by disembowelling them. And of course only two hounds can 'stalk' them. Stubborn hunts reluctant to change will soon realise they can get their fix legally so saboteurs are still needed across the country, as is your help.

[bristolhuntsabs@linuxmail.org](mailto:bristolhuntsabs@linuxmail.org) 07745576725

## The Hunt is an Amphitheatre

By Indigenous Bristolian

**THEY DON'T HUNT** fox for the dinner table. Just torture blood and guts. It's like witchcraft, smearing blood of foxes on young innocent children. And the ancestors of these folks were probably the ones that would put any old Jezebel on the ducking stool but they themselves haven't evolved much further than the Romans.

They spoil sport with an uneven playing field where the fox is always running uphill, manoeuvring between a much larger team!

Some hunt sabs choose to 'mask-up' – cover their face – as police evidence gatherers seem to focus on sabs rather than the hunter. You can see why the underdog is camera-shy and hygiene reasons saves us from catching those farmyard germs.

The ban is just a smokescreen. From the police's point of view, they'll spend their time with sabs in the field with their maps, helping us to stay away from the hunt and maintaining their idea of law and order without disturbing the blood-letting. There are no mounted cops to police the hunters. The police have plenty of vehicles and sometimes sabs are blessed with the presence of a chopper in the sky – not really cheap monitoring!

The reason for killing foxes is that they are pests. So it seems ironic that the hunt reintroduce foxes to areas where there is a shortage of them. I suppose the field followers don't want to pay to chase nothing! There are even artificial earths – Barratt homes for foxes – plastic pipes in clay mounds used as fox dens were discovered in Westonbirt Arboretum, near Badminton, the home of the Beaufort Hunt.

I feel that the general public will see that the ban is in place and feel that they can sit comfortably in front of the TV now that justice has been done. It takes me back to the 'success' of the Criminal Justice Act. People bought the hype that the CJA outlawed travellers and squatters. But did it? Yeah, a lot of homeless people curled up in doorways with a cardboard box and a bag of smack, and a lot of potential rebels down the drain but the Act seemed only to work for private landlords not Council or Housing Association properties. So, from the comfort of your sofa see the ban for what it really is. A minority are still sabbing hunts, the police retain order, foxes die every week and the hunt goes on... and the majority argue over the remote to channel hop to something less challenging on the mind.



# DEMO OF HEAD STATE AGAINST TERRORISM

by Bristol TOM

The people of Bristol recently had the chance to show opposition to our reactionary and hypocritical "sovereign" state when Eliza Brit (and Phillip) came here for organised worship. When the head of an imperialist state goes touting for cheap cheers the public response should be jeers. Elizabeth II represents ALL the armed forces in Britain, including the SA and military 'intelligence'. They swear their allegiance to her and she gives them medals.



[www.troopsoutmovement.com](http://www.troopsoutmovement.com)

When members of Bristol Troops Out Movement (BTOM) heard of this warmonger's visit they were outraged. We took the opportunity to remind her and any onlookers, about Britain's first colony, Ireland. Despite the good opportunity for any local activists to make a statement to the head of state, no one else seemed to bother. Three people and a banner proved to be efficient enough. BTOM members managed to stand in front of her majesty and display a big 'End British Rule in Ireland'. Sure she got the message.

Because it seems like the conflict is over, many wonder what is the reason for Troops Out to continue campaigning. However, the situation in Ireland is still very unstable and the Catholic community in many areas still lives in a state of siege and British rule still is a fact. In the last days we have witnessed a massive media campaign to de-legitimise the Republican movement, presenting cases of tension as 'uprisings' or 'revolts'. Ironically, this is happening when we are again close to elections and when, as a result of the Peace Process, Sinn

Fein is gaining votes. Yes, the violence exists and needs to be tackled, but this is also the effect of further fragmentation of Northern Ireland's Republican community after the Peace Process, where Catholics still hold a disfavoured position on the social scale and where they are still victims of constant physical attack and harassment. The social deprivation linked with a removal of communities from the political process has seen as a result an escalation of petty crime too. A new price to pay for those held at the bottom. In the meantime we do not hear anything about the ongoing sectarian attacks by unionists – yes, in what they call The Peace Process.

After around 800 years of atrocities the British forces, who have become well practised in the brutalities of ritualised violence and the humiliation and torture of prisoners, are committing appalling crimes in our society where they appear to be 'beyond the law'. The scale of death and destruction committed by Britain and America in Iraq bears no comparison, but there can be no peace, freedom or justice until troops withdraw.



campaigns

## bristol ARTIVIST

painting  
collage  
graffiti  
manifestos  
video  
installations  
performance  
stencils  
sculpture  
exhibitions  
mail art  
cartoons  
computer art  
design  
illustrations  
murals  
posters  
concepts  
fanzines  
printing  
subvertising  
etc.

### A group/space to develop political art collectively

currently doing stuff as part  
of the campaign against the  
G8 (Bristol Dissent!)

Every third Saturday  
of the month at 3pm  
(next workshop/meeting on  
19th Feb, 19th March, etc.)

*Kebele*  
a Bristol project for  
community art and  
activism

networking  
collective  
political  
non profit  
questioning  
inspiring  
debating  
sharing  
organising  
building  
preventing  
communicating  
imagining

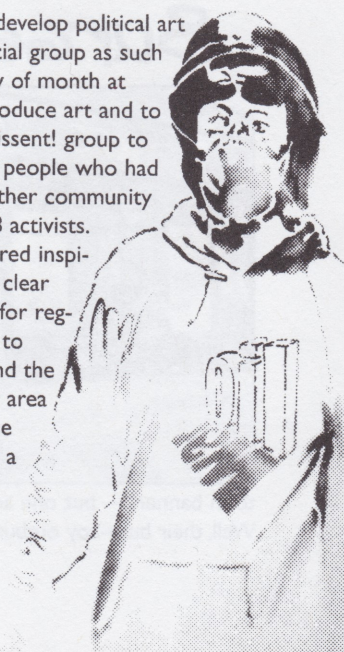
## BRISTOL ARTIVISTS READY FOR SOME *ACTION*

by Martin

BRISTOL ARTIVIST HAS established itself as a new group to develop political art in Bristol and the surrounding area. BArtivist is a not an official group as such but more like a regular meeting time and point (3rd Saturday of month at 3pm at Kebele) for artists and activists to get together to produce art and to share ideas. The idea of the workshop was aired at Bristol Dissent! group to produce some stencils against the G8. This brought together people who had been previously involved in Bristol Artists Against War and other community arts projects plus other politically minded artists and anti-G8 activists. The first workshops were bursting with ideas as activists shared inspiration and techniques. The possibilities and potential became clear and as a result these afternoons became an established date for regular workshops. And the ball started rolling! The group plans to hold collective exhibitions in different venues in Bristol around the

themes of the G8 and capitalist terrorism (venues to be confirmed). If you know of any venues in your area let us know. Also, contact us if you are an artist and want to take part in this exhibition as well as in the group workshop. In the meantime the group also thinks of holding art action days in town. You can see a sample of the art developed by the group in the back of this issue. BArtivist will be taking place in Dissent's School Day. BArtivist also has an e-mail group to discuss ideas and actions.

e-mail: [bartivist@aktivix.org](mailto:bartivist@aktivix.org)



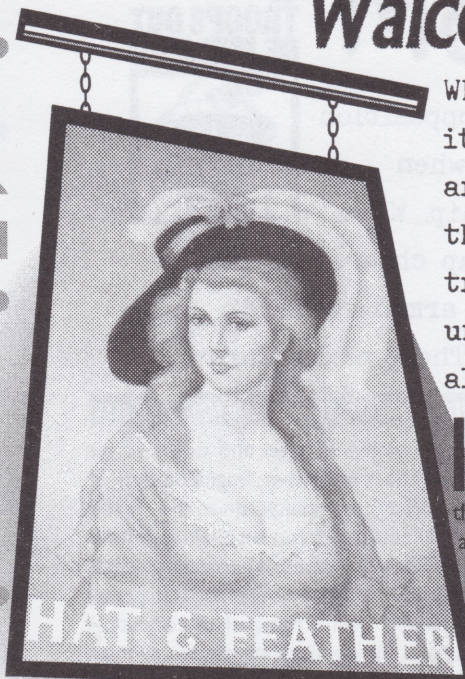
bristle 19 - 19



# The Passing of the Hat.

## Walcot Street Further Gentrified

by Steve



*This thirsty woman has been reduced to queuing for Cadillacs on a Saturday night...*

When the Council names an area the 'Artisans' Quarter' it is a sure sign that the relentless forces of heritage are moving in. We have already seen the sad demise of the much-loved flea market, pushed out of the old tram station and the Corn Market's future remains uncertain. The closure of the 'Hat and Feather' alehouse truly marks the end of a very long era.

It was here that regulars were said to heckle church-goers during the Nineteenth Century and it remained a hub of independent spirit to the present day. Over the years, anti-poll tax campaigners and hunt sabs met here, Stonehenge revellers called in before heading to the Plain and ravers congregated before playing pig and mouse with the local constabulary.

At the pub affectionately known as the 'Rat', we stomped our boots appreciatively as Blythe Power rode in from Castle Cary to sing about railways, cricket, revolution and gnomes. Liam o'Flynn of Planxty brought in his antique uilleann pipes and told their story between his reels. Rory McLeod visited everyone individually, winking and smiling, as he pranced around puffing through his trombone. And then there were The Rhythmites, Zen Hussies, The Cosmic Sausages and Swamp Donkeys and so many more. DJ Derek had a regular weekly slot. The 'open mic' night hosted the very best and the very worst acts ever.

Countless generations of Bath folk – or merry wayfarers passing through – danced, argued, giggled, flirted, held wedding receptions, played backgammon, ate candlelit veggie roasts or just passed the time of day at the 'Rat'. If a fight looked about to kick off, regulars would step in to calm things down. Ancient bicycles and radios perched upon the shelves within and gigantic day-glo papier-mâché puffer fish outlandishly shoaled across the ceiling. The walls were cream and dark red, prompting my one-time partner to say it was like a vagina (albeit after she'd munched 20 fresh magic mushrooms). Rumour had it that the beautiful interior of acid-Victoriana was listed and it was hoped that it would be preserved. Not so. It has now been bought by The Grappa Bar of Bath, an Italian-style bar. Our Walcot correspondent tells us 'the H&F will be called "Hudsons". They have stripped out all the old antique looking stuff and modernised it completely. Upstairs there will be a beefeater style eating place, downstairs a trendy bar.'

Ok, so I'll stop blubbering into my bitter now. After fighting off interest from the furniture shop next door last year the pub briefly had a new lease of life. Sadly, however, the 'Hat' lost its spirit several months before it closed as it became cold, unlit and the atmosphere lairy. And now it seems it is destined to be a steak house and expensive bar, following the lead of another gentrified Walcot pub the 'King William'. We need to support and cherish locally distinctive spaces if we are not to become imprisoned in corporate clone-towns!

## Bath Fast Food Chains Told to Burger Off



toon banner! – but one activist's audition for SchNews' Crap Arrest Of The Week fell short. Well, their bully-boy outburst antics do nothing but aid the animal rights cause, so, bring it on...

BATH ANIMAL ACTION have been up to no good again, with a new campaign of anti-corporate info-drops.

McDamage were blessed with a picket in mid-December, and Kentucky Fried Chicken got theirs in February. Leaflets made the usual rounds, including 'Captain Peacenik's Macdonald's Crime File', and the bulk of the public seemed quite receptive. A few local kids pledged to stop buying that shit, and more to follow: their health will thank them, and so will the animals. However, the two rent-a-thug managers didn't see things our way! A couple of police tried the public harassment/distress line – due to the display of a cartoon banner! – but one activist's audition for SchNews' Crap Arrest Of The Week fell short. Well, their bully-boy outburst antics do nothing but aid the animal rights cause, so, bring it on...

LEFTISM

### LEFTISM NEXT DATES

**15th April:** Benefit for Colombia Solidarity Campaign  
**20th May:** benefit for Brize Norton Peace Camp

Leftism is a fund-raising political club night, happening on the third Friday of every month at The Walcot Palais (in The Porter Butt pub, on the London Road, Bath) 9pm – 1am (late bar) Admission £3, £2 before 10 o'clock (no one turned away because they can't pay).



# Further Arm-Lock on Sainsburys over GM-Feed

by Steve

At 3am on Saturday 26th February, a coalition of environmentalists used direct action to blockade Sainsbury's huge regional distribution centre at Emerson's Green, causing disruption to Sainsbury's retail supply across the South-West and beyond. Braving sub-zero temperatures and snow, campaigners blockaded the entrance to the depot, locking themselves together for three hours with steel tubes.

There were six arrests. The defendants are awaiting a reappearance at Yate Magistrates Court, where they are contesting charges of alleged 'aggravated trespass', following an adjournment until 29th April 2005.

Campaigners are demanding that Sainsburys honour their undertaking to stop marketing dairy products from animals reared on genetically modified soya and maize. Currently the use of animal feed is keeping GM in the food chain despite overwhelming opposition from consumers. Sainsburys have also been heavily criticised for driving down prices for dairy farmers who are demanding a fair price for GM free milk. The actions followed multiple blockades and actions against Sainsburys last year.

Sainsbury's suppliers now pay most farmers less for their milk than it costs to produce. 40 dairy farmers are going under every week in Britain at the moment because of the supermarkets

pricing policies.

This goes hand in hand with the international crisis of biotechnology. Farmers want to avoid GM crops, but the poor payment

they currently receive forces many of them to keep using the fractionally cheaper GM contaminated imports. The continuing threat of GM, and the corporate acquisition and gentrification of the countryside, could be stopped if farmers got a fair fraction of the price paid for their milk, and the supermarkets were obliged to keep their three-year old promise to phase out GM feed.

See full reports on Indymedia UK:

[www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2005/03/306370.html](http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2005/03/306370.html)

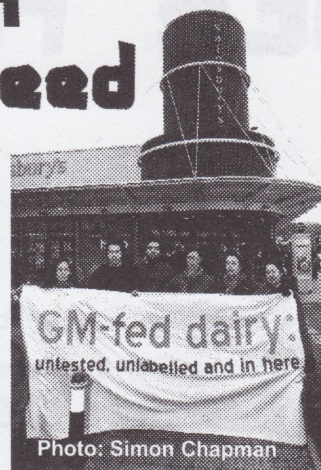
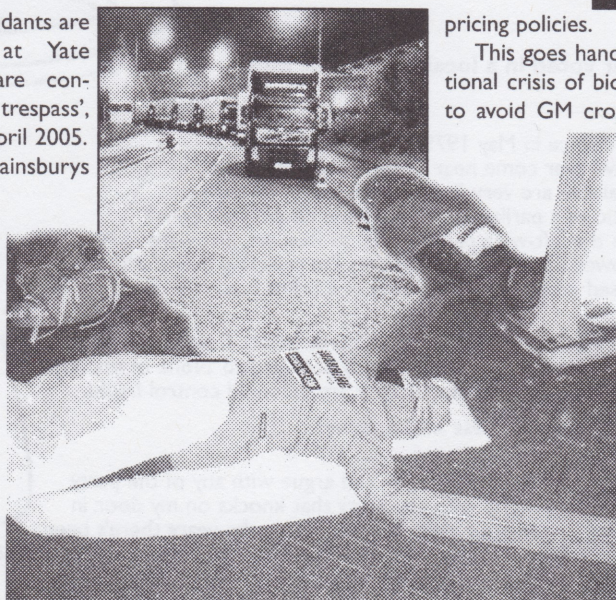


Photo: Simon Chapman



## Yeovilton against the WAR

On 15 February, Yeovil, Sherborne and Area Stop the War Coalition held a peaceful demonstration at RNAS (Royal Naval Air Station) Yeovilton in Somerset in protest at the continued occupation of Iraq. The group handed leaflets to military and civilian workers about the campaign to bring the troops home by Military Families Against the War. Although they were observed by MoD Police on the gate, a considerable number of incoming workers took leaflets. One worker said "I don't need one, I know it's wrong"

by Panda

Many air crew based at Yeovilton took part in the bombing of Iraq. Yeovilton is one of the Fleet Air Arm's two bases (the other is at Culdrose in Cornwall). It holds Sea Harrier FA2 planes, Lynx helicopters and the Sea King Mark 4 commando helicopters of the Navy's Commando Helicopter Force. It is also the location for the RN Fighter Controller School. Over 100 aircraft are based there. It employs over 1600 service-people and 2000 civilian staff, including permanent contractors such as Serco Aerospace. The Navy's Fighter Controller School is also based there. The base and associated sites cover over 1,000 acres. There is also a museum and Yeovilton runs a large-scale military air show every September. In September 2004, peace

activists leafleted the crowds queuing to enter the show.

Nearby in Yeovil is the Westland helicopter factory which produces military helicopters, such as the Lynx. Around 90% of its production is military. The BAE subsidiary Aerosystems International is also located in Yeovil, a town whose social life and politics are shaped by the dominance of employment in the military and arms trade.

February 15 was called as a National Day of Action against the occupation of Iraq to mark the second anniversary of the two million anti-war demonstration in London in 2003. For more information email [ysastopwar@aol.com](mailto:ysastopwar@aol.com), or see <http://www.members.lycos.co.uk/yeosherstwc>

bristling in the South West

bristle 19 - 21



# Vote For... *what* exactly?

2005 is clearly a year with lots of potential votes - local and general elections, strike ballots, maybe a referendum on the EU, and more. Vote yes, vote no, vote for X, Y or Z. **bristle** spoke to a conscious non-voter.

**bristle:** Have you ever voted in a local, general or Euro election?

A: No! Not since my first chance in May 1979. Quite simply, none of the tick-boxes available have ever come near to representing what I believe in. The 'choices' available are very limited in that they all expect me to accept the status quo of a parliament running the country on behalf of a capitalist system. Even the left-wing parties, such as Respect, just want your vote to give them power. But its more than that, I'm rejecting the whole idea that democracy is based on an occasional vote in a ballot box.

Did you know that in March this year, the House of Lords Select Committee on the Merits of Statutory Instruments, decreed a ban on any party called 'None of the above'. Those people don't just lack a sense of humour, they are paranoid control freaks.

**bristle:** Isn't not voting just laziness and apathy?

A: Not at all. I always go and spoil my ballot paper, and argue with any of the party canvassers at the polling station. I argue with any party that knocks on my door, in fact I spend more time doing it than your average voter! Over the years there's been the various anti-election campaigns, the vote 'Nobody' initiatives, the subverting party political billboards, asking awkward questions at election meetings, and much more!

**bristle:** But what about the people who don't do any of that, nor vote, who are just apathetic?

A: Well I wouldn't encourage anyone to vote, but I do encourage people to be active in other ways, because I think that any form of real democracy and equality will require our conscious active involvement on a 24/7 basis. Apathy is a problem I agree, it is not just confined to not voting. People feel disenfranchised and alienated, they can see that voting makes no real difference, and at the present time it is true that the majority of people do not think they can change much that goes on around them.

Sometimes people do vote in a positive way, such as Unison members voted to strike over pensions changes. Then a few days before the strike (23 March), the Union leaders call it off as the government backs down and offers 'more talks'. You can bet a fortune that in a few months time, when the anger has ebbed away, the government will go ahead and do exactly what they intended in the first place. Workers will then feel disempowered, that whatever they do they're gonna be fucked over. But in fact it shows they do have power - the problem is the leaders, not the workers.

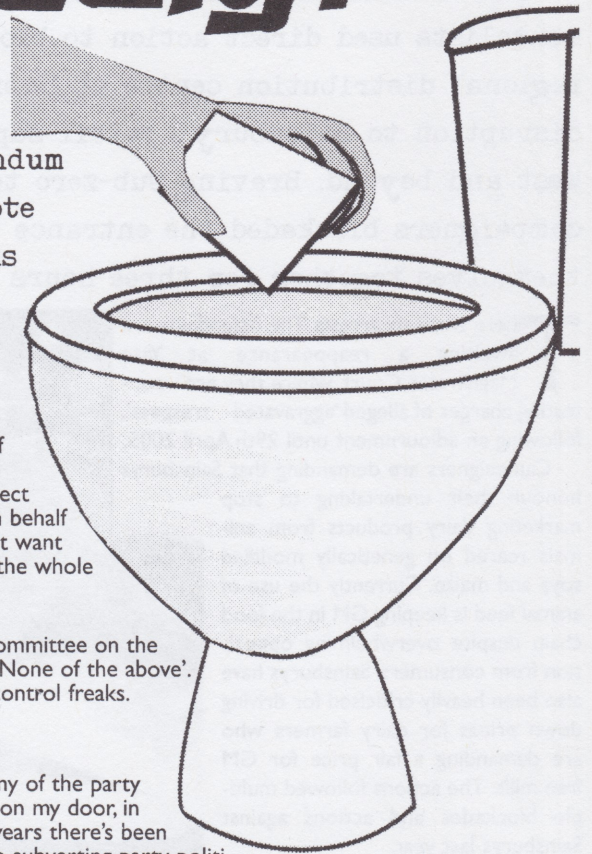
The politicians, the corporations, the union leaders, they want us to shut up and be quiet and inactive. Organised, collective self-activity by people is their biggest fear; just look how they reacted to the anti-war struggles - they were terrified and used all their weapons to attack it.

**bristle:** They say if you don't vote, you've got no right to complain.

A: That's crap. Our basic, fundamental rights as human beings are far more important than a five-yearly tick in a box, and it is impossible to encapsulate all our views in that one little box anyway. Did the population vote for a war? Or an increase in the pension age? Or for higher gas and electric bills? Or for the closure of services to the elderly & vulnerable in Bristol? There was no form of vote and their opinions were ignored. The problem is not 'not voting', but the system whereby voting in a parliamentary democracy is the full extent of our expected and allowed participation.

**bristle:** After all the struggles of great radicals like the Chartists and the Suffragettes, don't we owe it to them to vote?

A: At their time in history, the demands & struggles of the Chartists & Suffragettes were deemed revolutionary, they were asking for the impossible. Subsequently those demands, at least 'the right to vote', have been attained, just as in theory we have equal rights for black people, gay people, and so on. But its turned out that having the vote doesn't guarantee anything at all, it has changed very little - power and wealth is still concentrated in the hands of a very few people. If the Chartists & Suffragettes were alive today, I believe they would feel and act as I do.







The Malcolm X Centre never looked so good as it did for this event, which raised £600 for refugee and asylum seeking women of Bristol. A brilliant night of all women DJs, with visuals and projections to entertain the gas-filled balloon-huffers on the balcony, plus a smaller side room downstairs for a more chilled dancing experience, AND the lovely Fairy Sweet Posse distributing ice-pops for that necessary sugar-hit, keeping everyone cool. Refreshingly, the crowd was not filled with the usual poseurs, though it is always hilarious watching the guys trying to pull at what is supposed to be an International Women's Day event...the only criticism worth making is that the bar was appallingly understaffed and under-stocked. The next Kabu event will take place in March 2006. [www.kabu.co.uk](http://www.kabu.co.uk) by Natty G

gig  
**Klub Kabu**

12 March, Malcolm X Centre



Fanzine  
**Everlong**  
no 6, £1



We were well chuffed to get this through the post (mostly coz no-one ever writes to us). Everlong is a darn good fanzine produced by some Bristol punks. It's totally rammed full of interviews, album, zine and gig reviews, covering a good range of noise from the world of punkrock. Lots of local bands reviewed, which is ace, and a good reminder of what a vibrant, busy scene there is in Bristol, when you come to think of it! Highlight for me, though, was an interview with Blaggers AKA, still well solid in their militant anti-fascism and still a storming band. There's a lot of work gone into this 48-page zine, and it's a top example of non-commercial activity and DIY culture. You can tell it's done for the love of the music and the spreading of ideas. Full respect to the Everlong crew, helping to keep punk alive and kicking in Bristol. [www.swpunx.co.uk](http://www.swpunx.co.uk) by Barry Cades



**Britain's Foremost Ratist** - I reckon it would be even more fun to go out on a mission with Banksy than to clamber into Tracey Emin's unmade bed. And a lot more enjoyable than hacking up hapless beasts with Damien Hirst. Now Banksy has left Bristol, most of the detonating chimps, rocket-launching Mona Lisas, CCTV pigs and guerrilla rat stencils that kept us company in the alienated streets have been painted out. I'd like to say his art was inspirational but the vacuum has mostly been filled by crap egotistical tagging and the council 'environment' department's daubs of grey paint. Banksy's third booklet of meticulously executed vandalism and precision paint-bombing contains nothing that is not original, hilarious and poignant. We would expect no less of him.

Book  
**Cut it Out**  
(Weapons of Mass Disruption)  
Banksy 2004. £4.99.



by Steve



Imparanoia is about getting together and, as she said in her latest record 'Rebelliousness and Joy', Amparanoia is about having a good time without forgetting the fight. Yes, this was the newly nominated best European act in the BBC World Music Awards. What is clear is that these awards may be different but Amparo Sánchez (AKA Amparanoia) belongs to a different group than that stardom and pop crap. She is a humble down-to-earth woman who loves what she does and who is not bothered about that kind of recognition. The venue was packed - late (continental time for you) but packed. No support band but a very long set for Amparo and band who played as enthusiastically as if at their first gig and they drove everyone to dance. A simple set-up too: two guitars, bass, drums and trumpet, enough to dig into Latin rhythms (bolero, son, ranchera), reggaes, bossa and rumba.... loads of rumba! The beginning songs for the Zapatistas ('Somos Viento' - We're Wind and 'Somos Abrazo' - We're a Hug), dedicated to rebels all around (us too?), were followed by songs against the alienation and abuse of full time work and to the corruption of money (keep on like this, Amparo, keep on like this!). Or the beautiful 'Mar Estrecho' (Narrow Sea, referring to the Strait of Gibraltar) a song about breaking borders and becoming one with those who attempt to reach Spain from Africa. As well as her own songs, Amparo played songs by others like Mano Negra's 'Welcome to Tijuana' and Bob Marley's 'Redemption Song' unaccompanied. Or a version of the famous 'Dos Gardenias', where the trumpeter won the audience, adding the 'Summertime' phrase to his solo - pure feeling. The joint Bristle and Dissent! stall was well visited too and we spread more information about G8 and the campaign against it in Bristol.

gig  
**Amparanoia**  
The Fiddlers, 11-3-05

by Clandestino



This was a talk by Andy Worthington\* to launch a photo exhibition commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Battle of the Beanfield. The talk brought back a lot of memories and made a few revelations as Andy charted the history of Stonehenge gatherings up to the eve of 1st June 1985. He set the scene from the impromptu public assemblies at the site during the late Nineteenth Century, to the Druidic revivalists at the dawn of the Twentieth Century and the rise of late sixties radical spirit, culminating in the free festival that, notoriously, was to end with the police riot of 1985. The talk was followed by a screening of 'Operation Solstice'. The police acted as Thatcher's willing shock troops when they ambushed and attacked the travellers' convoy at Cholderton, resulting in countless bloody injuries, homes destroyed and the largest ever number of peace time arrests - 420. My own teenage experiences of the anarchist town of 30,000 in the heart of Wessex that the Stonehenge People's Free Festival had become by 1984 can be summed up by George Orwell's description of the revolutionary situation he found in Barcelona during the Spanish Civil War: 'There was much in it that I didn't understand or even like', but 'I recognized it immediately as a state of affairs worth fighting for.' The problems that were a part of the festival scene are still with us, while many of the solutions it represented in its collective autonomous organisation, creativity and spirit of resistance are ripe to be reclaimed. The Battle of the Beanfield is the 1066 of the counterculture and we must not allow it to be airbrushed out of our history.

exhibition/talk  
**Stonehenge -**  
celebration and subversion  
Kebele KP,

by Steve

\*Andy Worthington, Stonehenge: Celebration and Subversion (Loughborough: Alternative Albion, 2004). £14.94.





The benefit gig for Bristol Hunt Saboteurs on March 5th was a great success and raised £500 for the group which will be put to good use as hunts around the country continue to kill foxes despite the Labour government's joke of a hunting ban. Smog UK, Forced Entry and local bands Scavengers and Spanner all played, put loads of effort into it and were awesome. There was a great crowd of people, really friendly atmosphere, everyone having a great laugh, loads of dancing, drinking and fun. The Full Moon was a great venue, loads of space and friendly staff. Expenses were kept pretty low because the bands took hardly any money –

thanks to them for that! Special big thank you to the band and group member who organised the whole thing almost single-handedly. You're a star!!

## gig Bristol Hunt Saboteurs 5th Marc, Full Moon



Written by Fermín Cabal, Tejas Verdes is a powerful and important play, staged beautifully by the Gate Theatre company. It tells the story of a young woman named Colorina, who 'disappears' one night in Santiago, and ends up in Tejas Verdes. Tejas Verdes was a hotel, converted into a torture centre by DINA, the Chilean secret police agency created under Pinochet to undermine opposition to his dictatorship. Pinochet lead Chile from 1973–1990, following a CIA-backed coup which overthrew (and killed) Salvador Allende. The CIA also supported the development of DINA, providing (under the guidance of station chief Ray Warren) supervision for the agency. DINA used several torture centres during Pinochet's regime, to squash what they described as "the enemy within". This included supporters of Allende, communists, subversive, and anyone who they considered a potential threat to their regime. Tejas Verdes was known for the extreme savagery that was executed there. Detainees were regularly given electric shocks, had their limbs broken and were starved, raped and beaten. Many who went in have never been found. Those who survived have been left with permanent scars, both physical and mental. On March 7th 2005, more than 30 years after their crimes, Chilean courts issued indictments to former DINA chief Manuel Contreras and other former senior DINA officers for aggravated abduction and torture. General Pinochet has been under house arrest since December 2004, on charges of human rights abuses.

## play Tejas Verdes Gate Theatre

by Max Graef



As most of you should know by now, our much loved and so-called protected badgers are being made a scapegoat by yet another government/DEFRA cock up. Thousands have been slaughtered in a vain attempt to discover how Bovine TB is being spread amongst cattle. As you can guess, their tests have proved nothing. To the cost of the taxpayer; an estimated £7000 per Badger life. So the Alma Inn in Taunton became the venue for a night of musical mayhem and for many; some animal rights education. Two Bristol-based bands, The Scavengers and Spanner, played their hearts out to an enthusiastic crowd, with their collective musical blends of Punk, Reggae, Folk and Ska; but united in their anarcho philosophy. Spanner played some wicked tunes, like 'Autonomy' and 'Border Regime' in their normal tight as phuc fashion! As more than one local commented, 'It's about time we heard some decent 'bloody' music in Taunton!' Last on were Northeast London Sabbers; 'Active Slaughter'. Straight to the point and straight for the jugular! Belted out some Countryside Alliance favourites, such as 'My Foot in your mouth'!! Check them all out next time they play Bristle - they kick ass!

## gig Badger Battle Benefit Gig The Alma Inn, Taunton, 11 Feb

by Spencer



The Streets have grown to be considered the best hip-hop act in the islands. Well, someone has been missing what was going on until now (Rebel MC, Marxman, Credit to the Nation, 25th May, Gunshot, JC001, etc) and what really is going on (Skinnyman, 57th Dinnasty, DJ Vadim, Blade, etc) or have just woken up from a long sleep... Yes, The Streets have managed to give hip-hop a British flavour by blending it with garage rhythms (I have to say that despite being a live band, the act was quite boring) and also for dealing with British issues (sure?) that apparently the working class can identify with... Perhaps... The lyrics just sound rebellious because they are not the usual: drugs, sex, etc. but mainly because for many, these things are just attractive in a phase of live and then they lose their glamour. The Streets is Mikee, just 22 and suddenly raised to total fame: another sub-product of the music market. The guy seems to be happy there despite a small glimpse of politics (a stall for Palestine!!). He sold out playing on a Sunday and on a Monday, and for £20! (we did not pay them, obviously...). The new working class affordable prices offered by our council at Colston Hall (and people pay it...!) Let's hope the guy wakes up and uses his potential more wisely.

## gig The Streets Colston Hall, 28-2-05

Clandestino

## Obituary for George Firsoff

George Firsoff of Robin Greenwood's Gang, editor of Greenleaf and antiquarian picnicker, lost his battle against cancer shortly before the Winter Solstice. George, together with other members of the Greenwood gang formed a defence group to try to stop the woods (Fargo Plantation) at Stonehenge being hacked down for firewood during the Festival. RGG was run on the wise principles: 'Robin's Greenwood Gang is an informal club whose first rule is that there shall be as few rules as possible. You are a member if you think you are one. All have the status of Messenger. There is no higher rank.' During the 1990s George opposed Ashton Court Quarry and road-building with Catweazel (now also sadly passed on) and campaigned for travellers' rights. He was also the editor of Greenleaf – an independent environmentalist/hippy/pagan magazine that was produced from his home in Redfield for many years. It was no mean feat to edit the 12-page underground magazine, Greenleaf which came out quarterly from the mid-1980s up to the new Millennium when a website was set up. His ashes were scattered at Stoke on Trent and he was also remembered at Stonehenge on the Solstice. We remember George Firsoff as a kindred spirit who kept the spirit of the greenwood alive in the inner-city.

by Steve





# contacts

**Avalon Fair Shares**  
(Glastonbury LETS scheme)  
01458 831118  
avalonfairshares@aol.com

**Avon Organic Group**  
54 Castlegate House,  
School Road,  
Bristol, BS4 4ND  
0117 971 9077  
avonorganicgroup@onetel.com

**Bath Animal Action**  
PO Box 426, Bath 2ZD  
Bathanimalaction@yahoo.co.uk

**Bath Cycle Campaign**  
Bath Earth First!  
PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD.

**Bath Hunt Saboteurs Association**  
PO Box 426, Bath BA1 2ZD.  
07734 968414  
bathsabs@fsmail.net

**Bath Stop the War Coalition**  
c/o 40 Kipling Ave, Bath BA2 4RB.  
www.bathstopwar.org.uk  
Postmaster@bathstopwar.org.uk

**Bristol Activists Forum**  
bristol-activists-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk

**Bristol Animal Rights Network**  
Box 53, Greenleaf Bookshop, 32 Colston St,  
Bristol BS1 5BB.  
Bristolar@webtribe.net

**Bristol Anti-Casualisation Campaign**  
Box 4, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St,  
Bristol, BS1 5BB.  
bristolacc@hotmail.com  
Tel: 0779 2018881

**Bristol Colombia Solidarity Group**  
http://www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk  
bristolcolombiasolidarity@gmail.com

**Bristol Cycling Campaign**  
13 Alpha Road, Southville Bristol BS3 1DH.  
http://bcc.gn.apc.org

**Bristol Defend the Asylum Seekers Campaign**  
Box 41, Greenleaf Books, 82, Colston Street,  
Bristol, BS1 5BB  
www.asylumbristol.org.uk/  
asylumbristol@yahoo.co.uk  
Tel: 0117 944 1481

**Bristol Dissent!** (against G8)  
Box 102, 82 Colston St, Bristol, BS1 5BB  
http://www.dissent.org.uk(national website)  
dissentbristol@subsection.org.uk

**Bristol Genetix Group**  
6 The Manor House, Park Lane,  
Bristol BS2 8BE  
0117 927 6322

**Bristol Housing Action Movement**  
Box 56, 82 Colston St, BS1 5BB.  
0795 725 4045

**Bristol Hunt Saboteurs**  
Box 104, 82 Colston St.  
Bristol BS1 5BB  
Tel: 07745576725  
bristolhuntsabs@linuxmail.org

**Bristol Indymedia**  
http://bristol.indymedia.org  
(www.indymedia.org.uk)

**Bristol International Solidarity Movement**  
(Action/Resistance for Justice in Palestine)  
www.ism-bristol.org.uk/

**Bristol Permaculture Group**  
10-12 Picton St, Montpelier,  
Bristol BS5 6QA. Tel: 0117 955 3959  
bristol\_permaculture@yahoo.co.uk  
http://www.bristolfoe.org.uk/bpg/

**Bristol Prisoners' Support Group (ABC)**  
Box 42, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB  
http://www.geocities.com/bristol\_abc/  
bristol\_abc@yahoo.co.uk

**Bristol Stop the War Coalition**  
Box 45, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.

**The Bristolian** bi-weekly news-sheet  
Box 3, 82 Colston St, Bristol, BS1 5BB  
Tel: 07708411409  
the\_bristolian2004@yahoo.co.uk

**Campaign to Save Day Centres**  
47 Richmond Terrace, Avonmouth  
Bristol BS11 9EV  
Tel: 07818 677188  
bristol\_citizens@yahoo.co.uk

**Cardiff Anarchist Network**  
bozavine@yahoo.co.uk  
www.geocities.com/bozavine/can/

**Castle Cary Genetics Engineering Network**  
01749 860689  
louise@ukonline.co.uk

**Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army**  
http://www.clownarmy.org  
circa@riseup.net

**The Cube Cinema**  
Dove Street South (Off Kings Square),  
Bristol BS2 8JD. Tel: 0117 907 4190  
www.cubecinema.com  
cubeadmin@microplex.cubecinema.com

**East Devon Hunt Saboteurs**  
sabs@devoneast.freemove.co.uk

**Easton Cowboys**  
www.eastoncowboys.org.uk  
eastoncowboys@hotmail.com

**Eco-Village Network UK (EVNUK)**  
PO Box 1410, Bristol BS99 3JP  
0117 373 0346

**Enrager.net** (anarchist and libertarian  
newswire, with . South West Forums)  
http://enrager.net/web/britain/southwest  
http://enrager.net/web/

**Euskal Info** (Basque Information)  
PO Box 50, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.  
www.euskalinfo.org.uk  
euskalinfo@yahoo.com

**Glastonbury GE Group**  
Tel: 01458 834787

**Greenleaf Bookshop**  
82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.  
Tel: 0117 921 1369

**Gwent Anarchists**  
PO Box 70, Newport NP20 5XX  
gwentanarchists@yahoo.co.uk

**Kebele Kulture Projekt**  
14 Robertson Road, Easton, Bristol BS5 6JY.  
Tel: 0117 939 9469  
www.kebele.org

**Kiptik (Zapatista Solidarity Group)**  
Box 79, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.  
www.kiptik.buz.org  
kiptik@eudoramail.com

**Leftism** (Dance nights for local causes)  
Third Fri night in the month at Porter Butt,  
London Road, Bath  
http://www.leftism.co.uk  
leftismbath@aol.com

**Mapuche International Link**  
6 Lodge Street, Bristol BS1 5LR.  
Tel: 0117 927 9391  
http://www.members.aol.com/mapulink/

**Marlon Thomas Campaign**  
Grosvenor Road, St. Pauls, Bristol.

**Queer Mutiny Group** (Bristol)  
c/o Here, 108 Stokes Croft, Bristol.  
Tel: 0117 9422222  
queermutinybristol@yahoo.co.uk  
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/queermutinybristol

**Road Block** (anti-roads group)  
PO Box 164, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5WX.  
Tel: 01803 847649 or 07854 693067  
www.roadblock.org.uk

**Shellfish Network**  
Box 66, Greenleaf Bookshop, Colston St.  
Bristol BS1 5BB.  
Tel: 0117 942 5524

**Solidarity Bristol** (Solidarity Federation),  
Box 43, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB.  
www.solfed.org.uk  
mail@solidaritybristol.org.uk.

**Somerset Against GE**  
Tel: 01749 813787

**South West Punx Forum**  
http://www.swpunx.co.uk

**SWAN Network**  
PO Box 70, Newport, NPI 0YD  
swangroup@yahoo.co.uk

**Swindon Against GMOs**  
Tel: 01793 790438 sbirley@gm.apc.org

**Transform Drug Policy Foundation**  
Easton Business Centre, Felix Road,  
Bristol BS5 0HE. Tel: 0117 941 5810  
http://www.tdpf.org.uk/  
info@tdpf.org.uk

**Troops Out** (Bristol)  
PO Box 5, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB



## Kebele Kulture Projekt calendar

Kebele Cafe: every Sunday 6-11pm  
Kebele bike workshop: every Wednesday 12-5pm  
Kebele core meeting: last Monday of the month, 8.30pm  
Kebele film night: last Thursday of the month, 7.30pm  
Kebele library group: Third Wednesday of the month

### Other groups using Kebele

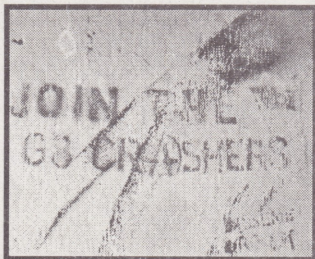
Bristol Wireless: first Tuesday of the month, 6pm  
Bristol Colombia Solidarity: every other Wednesday (March 30th), 6pm  
Dissent: last Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm  
Hunt Sab/Animal Rights: first Wednesday of the month (April 6th), 7.30pm  
Music Impro: every Thursday



# G8 CRASHER

6-8 JULY SCOTLAND 2005

PLEASE CLOSE  
THE G8  
BEHIND YOU!!



BRISTOL ARTIVISTS AGAINST G8

